

Liberal leader fights for political life as MPs reject blueprint

Merger chaos threatens to topple Steel

By Robin Oakley and Richard Ford

The proposed merger between the Liberal Party and the Social Democrats was on the point of collapse last night.

Mr David Steel was fighting for his political life as Liberal Party leader after a day of shambles and confusion.

He said last night: "The negotiating process has, at least temporarily, come to a halt". He and Mr Robert MacLennan, leader of the SDP, had earlier faced the humiliation of having to cancel at the last minute a noon press conference which was to have announced their merger, for further, frantic talks.

Mr Steel was forced to admit that the policy document produced by the two leaders had been disowned by

his own MPs. It has been rejected too by the Liberal Party's policy committee and there is considerable disquiet in the SDP that the document is too right-wing and "Thatcherite".

Mr Steel admitted that the document the two leaders had agreed upon was "clearly in its present form not acceptable as the policy stance of the parties", and said the negotiating team would meet again on Monday.

A grinning Dr David Owen

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was ostentatiously reading the document in the Commons chamber yesterday. Mrs Rosie Barnes, a close ally of Dr Owen's said last night: "This document does not reflect SDP policy and is therefore not SDP policy imposed on the Liberal party, but a *pot-pourri* of personal policies from Robert MacLennan and David Steel. I expect as many Social Democrats to disown it as Liberals."

The lengthy document pledges firm support for the Trident missile system and proposes the phasing-out of mortgage tax relief and the extension of VAT to food, children's clothes, fuel and newspapers.

Liberal MPs were aghast. Mr Alex Carlile, the member for Montgomery, who had been Mr Steel's nominee on the negotiating committee, said the document contained a number of "loopy" ideas which would never be supported by the Liberal Party.

One senior Liberal official said: "It is incorrect to say that there is controversy within the Liberal Party about the document. We're all against it."

Mr Steel's MPs, who demanded a meeting with him yesterday when they learnt what was in the document, have asked him to carry on so long as the merger negotiations continue, but there was open speculation last night that he had destroyed his authority within his own party.

A weary Mr Steel denied last night that he had contemplated resignation over the botched-up merger in which he has invested his leadership, but he did so without force or apparent conviction.

One senior Liberal ally of Mr Steel said: "We have wounded ourselves gravely and stupidly. David Steel has failed to listen to his own party and Robert MacLennan has listened too much to the Owenites."

The merger plan, now put on ice for several days while the leaders listen despairingly to the criticisms of their parties and search frantically for some formula to resolve the deadlock, has succeeded in dividing the Liberal Party as

well as the SDP, with four of the negotiating committee walking out in protest at the proposed package.

The merger process is now in total chaos, with the two party leaders and their officials admitting that they simply do not know what to do next. Mr Steel said: "We do not have any magic solution."

Two conferences to be held separately by the parties over the last two weekends of this month will go ahead. But no one knows what they will be asked to agree.

The SDP and Mr MacLennan maintained from the beginning that a merger was unthinkable without a clearly agreed document setting out the policy stance of the new party. However, Mr MacLennan's desire to prove his toughness as a new leader and to keep on board as many as possible of the more robust Social Democrats was being blamed by Liberals for producing the policies which caused the disaster.

They were also blaming their own leader's failure to consult his colleagues properly or to concern himself with policy detail.

There were signs in the Liberal Party last night of a growing movement in favour of ending the search for merger terms before the credibility of both parties is finally destroyed.

It is difficult to see how Mr Steel's leadership can recover from such a humiliating blow.

The policy document has no status at all. The only people who have agreed upon it are the two leaders. It will require considerable momentum from Mr MacLennan to save it, and he did budge a little during the day, after a lengthy negotiating session.

Mr MacLennan at first said that he would brook no alterations in the document. But with the Liberal MPs adamant that they would not accept it in its present form, he said last night at a Westminster press conference that he was willing to listen to what the parties

For an hour before the full negotiating team began its meeting at 3.30pm on Tuesday, the Liberals had met in private at the Commons. Then, for almost three hours, the full SDP-Liberal team talked. The most important details were the name and the commitment in the party's constitution to NATO.

A name for the new party had already angered the Liberal grassroots and threatened to cause an unstoppable revolt at the Blackpool party conference. Last month Mr Steel warned that the whole merger could be called off because of arguments

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A grim day for Mr David Steel and Mr Robert MacLennan (front, centre). Also at the Alliance meeting in London yesterday were, from left: Mr Jim Wallace, Mr Paddy Ashdown, Sir Russell Johnston, Mr Malcolm Bruce, Mr Ronald Fearn, and Mr Charles Kennedy. (Photograph: Tim Bishop)

From third force to third farce

By Richard Ford

Political Correspondent
Hopes were high as the motley assortment of parliamentarians and political activists gathered for what the leaders prayed would be a final negotiating session of the tortuous efforts to bring forth a merger of the Liberals and SDP.

As they trooped into the Cowley Street headquarters of the SDP, party officials were confident that within five hours they would be announcing the union joyously.

The Jubilee Room at the House of Commons was booked for a mid-day appearance yesterday by Mr David Steel and Mr Robert MacLennan to announce the terms for the marriage proposed prospectively in the aftermath of the Alliance debate at the general election.

Then it would be on to Sheffield and Blackpool, where the respective parties were expected confidently to endorse the deal before a formal spring launch for the third force at the centre of British politics.

Within hours it had degenerated into the third farce as the carefully laid plans of the two leaders dissolved before their very eyes. It was just like the Liberal Party of old: the kind of chaos and shambles the merged organization was supposed to consign to history.

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Continued on page 18, col 4

500 nurses set to strike today over privatization

By Kerry Gill

More than 500 nurses in Edinburgh are to go on 24-hour strike today in support of ancillary workers protesting over privatization plans in Scotland.

The nurses are all members of the health unions, Nupe and Cohse which represent about 12,000 members north of the border, and are on the staffs of Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and Edinburgh Royal Hospital.

All non-emergency operations in the Lothian Health Board area, which covers Edinburgh, have been cancelled for the duration of the strike. No members of the Royal College of Nursing are taking part.

The action follows an

'Action' promised on NHS

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

The Government yesterday admitted the need for "action" to increase the amount of money spent on health care in this country and to ease the current pressure on the National Health Service.

The presidents of the three royal medical colleges said that the Secretary of State for Social Services, Mr John Moore, had "allayed their fears" about the growing crisis within the NHS by agreeing to consider both extra funding and alternative financing.

However, after the 70-minute meeting which they described as "cordial", the

Hole-in-the-heart boy Matthew Collier, aged four, was "very sick" in intensive care last night after a 10-hour operation at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Health service review 2

instruction from Mr Michael Egan, the Scottish Health Minister, calling on every health board to speed up plans for privatization of ancillary services, and to begin putting services out to tender.

Mr Jim Devine, the Scottish organizer of Cohse, said the unions would resist the plans and called on health boards not to take notice of the instructions.

The strike was scheduled to

begin at 7.30am today and involves mostly members of Cohse. One nurse said: "We cannot let these plans go through. If they do, it will not be long before nursing itself is privatized." Lothian Health Board is expected to start discussions later today on which services, such as cleaning, laundry and catering, should be put out to tender.

A board spokesman said: "Most nursing staff at the two hospitals will be reporting for duty as normal. We will just have wait and see how many people take up the strike call. There are no plans to use agency nurses." Some hospitals are expected to be left without domestic and catering staff because of supportive action by union members

within the next two months.

Labour bid to demote Prescott

By Philip Webster

Chief Political Correspondent

Labour frontbenchers want Mr Neil Kinnock to strip Mr John Prescott of his shadow cabinet post if he forces a deputy leadership contest.

Mr Prescott is expected by most Labour MPs to declare next week that he is to challenge Mr Roy Hattersley for the position. Senior figures are saying that he should no longer carry on as shadow energy secretary.

The party leader would be fully justified in taking the job away from him, they say, because Mr Prescott had defied his wishes in forcing an election and because the contest would distract Mr Prescott from his other duties.

Mr Prescott is an elected member of the shadow cabinet and could not be ousted from it. But Mr Kinnock could remove his portfolio.

Most MPs believe Mr Kinnock is highly unlikely to resort to such a step, although the fact that the demand is being made reflects the anger in the parliamentary party.

Mr Kinnock has made plain throughout that he does not want a contest, which he fears could damage the party.

He has faced recent criticism from the left and right about his performance since the election and yesterday a far left group, the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy, called for a left wing candidate to stand against Mr Kinnock this year for the leadership.

Interest rates warning

By David Smith

Economics Correspondent

The Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Governor of the Bank of England gave a warning yesterday that interest rates would be raised if inflationary pressures were seen to be emerging.

Their warning came at a meeting of the National Economic Development Council, chaired by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, at which the Confederation of British Industry called on the authorities to adopt a more relaxed approach to interest rates.

Both the Chancellor and Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Governor, stressed the need for a highly cautious approach.

Mr Lawson said US reluctance to raise interest rates because of this year's presidential election could mean a stormy period ahead for the world economy.

In financial markets, yesterday, dealers were nervous ahead of tomorrow's US trade figures for November. In slow trading, the FT-SE 100 share index closed 5.8 points lower at 1,733.4, and on Wall Street the Dow Jones industrial average was down 4.15 points at 1,924.40 in afternoon trading.

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INSIDE

Gilts flop

The Bank of England may revert to its traditional method of gilt-edged sales after its experimental £1 billion auction flopped. Page 19

Puzzle contest

Today we publish the qualifying puzzle which entrants for The Times Collins Dictionary 1988 Crossword Championship have to solve to take part in the regional finals. Page 18

Portfolio

● The £8,000 prize in The Times Portfolio Gold competition, double the usual amount as there was no winner on Tuesday, was shared yesterday by Miss I. Fisher, of Finchley, north London, and Mr M. Newman, of St Helens, Merseyside.

● Portfolio list, page 23.

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Hurd fails to allay protests

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, appeared to have failed last night to have headed off a substantial revolt among Conservative backbenchers at tomorrow's Commons debate on Mr Richard Shepherd's Private Member's Bill seeking to revise the Official Secrets Act.

The Government's decision to impose a three-line whip was angrily attacked by several speakers at a special meeting of the backbench Home Affairs Committee attended by more than 70

Conservative MPs. Mr John Biffen, the former Commons leader, was loudly applauded as he led the protests, complaining that the rights of backbenchers were being infringed.

Some Conservative backbenchers will attend the debate to support the Shepherd Bill and deliberately defy the Government. But a much larger number are thought likely by the whips to stay away in protest.

Mr Hurd told the meeting

that the Government's promised legislation to reform the official secrets law would not be draconian or tyrannical. Urging them to vote against Mr Shepherd's Bill and to wait for the Government's own proposals, to be published in June, he denied that he was asking them to buy a "pig in a poke".

He underlined his own personal commitment to reform by saying that it was now one of the most important matters before the Government

Rise and fall of the Wall Street artful dodger

From Charles Bremner
New York

Life was good to young David Bloom. Hailed as a Wall Street wizard and lionized as an art collector and philanthropist at the age of 22, his was one of the more impressive fables of the roaring eighties.

This week, they took away his paintings, worth \$4.7 million (\$2.5 million), his Aston Martin, Mercedes, the keys to his Manhattan flat and his Long Island mansion. His new residence is likely to be the federal clink.

Mr Bloom, aged 23 and the very model of the now-reviled yuppie, was barred for life from stock trading by a Manhattan court and is helping police with their inquiries.

The court papers, filed by the

Securities and Exchange Commission, Wall Street's regulatory police, told a tale that could only have happened in the riches-for-all atmosphere of eighties New York.

The SEC started investigating Mr Bloom after he featured in a lavish colour spread in The New York Times Sunday magazine last October. It called him "one of Wall Street's new breed of private investors" and it pictured the clean-cut Mr Bloom showing off his art collection in his spacious East 52nd Street flat.

"First I decide what I want to buy, then I worry about how I'm going to pay for it," he was quoted as saying.

The SEC investigators said he was not involved in shady insider-dealing. He simply took millions of dollars from investors and used it directly to

finance his high-living. His visible prosperity in turn boosted his reputation as a skilled stock market player and brought more clients to his office, according to the SEC.

He never registered his investment firm, Great Sutton Investors' Group, based just off Fifth Avenue. He made only token stock purchases, filed false financial reports and paid off complaining investors with funds entrusted to him by a wide circle of acquaintances who had heard he had the golden touch, the SEC said.

Greed for action at the Wall Street casino and the abundance of baby millionaires were enough apparently to allay suspicion.

With his total of \$10 million intake, Mr Bloom was able to indulge his taste

for paintings, acquired when he studied the history of art at Duke University in North Carolina. He also developed his eye for money at the college and set up an investors' club among fellow students before graduating in 1985.

Last November he honoured his *alma mater* with a \$1 million endowment to equip the university museum with works of art. "When I was in school the collection at the museum was terrible," he told the audience when presenting his gift.

The SEC, which leaves criminal charges to federal prosecutors, said Mr Bloom was co-operating and that he had agreed to hand over his treasure trove towards refunding his customers. The case is now in the hands of the police.

News group raises stake in Pearson

By Michael Tate

News International, headed by Mr Rupert Murdoch, yesterday paid £94.7 million for Mr Carlo de Benedetti's 5.3 per cent stake in Pearson, publisher of the Financial Times, lifting The News Corporation group's holding to 20 per cent. The shares were acquired at 827p each.

Lord Blakenham, the Pearson chairman, said last night that Pearson had been offered the shares last week but had chosen not to find buyers.

"The price was significantly above the market price," said Lord Blakenham. "We felt Mr de Benedetti was not a long-term holder, and since we were aware that Mr Murdoch would be interested in increasing his interest, we felt that by allowing the shares to go to News International, an unstable block would be removed."

Mr de Benedetti, who bought his holding from

Hutchinson Whampoa at 622p a share last May and makes a profit of more than £20 million on the sale, had given Lord Blakenham until Sunday to decide on whether to buy the shares.

News International, which publishes The Times, the Sunday Times, The Sun, the News of the World, and Today in Britain, first took a stake in Pearson last September, swiftly building it to 14.9 per cent.

On October 1, Mr Murdoch met Lord Blakenham to discuss "the possibility of co-operation in their common business areas," but little progress is thought to have been made.

Mr Murdoch said: "We have bought these shares because they are a good investment. We do not have the ability or ambition to take over the company."

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NEWS SUMMARY

Poll tax 'benefits low pay groups'

People with incomes of £150 a week or less will be better off on average under the community charge than under the existing system of domestic rates, the Government disclosed yesterday.

Mr Michael Howard, the Minister for Local Government, released updated figures aimed at quelling opposition within his party and beyond over the controversial poll tax.

Mr Howard said the figures showed that 53 per cent of households would benefit under the legislation through Parliament. Of the argument that the poll tax takes no account of ability to pay and will hit hardest at the least well-off, the minister insisted that domestic rates are badly related to incomes. For the poorest group, those with income of up to £50 a week, rates amounted to 4.1 per cent of net income. The community charge would absorb only 3.4 per cent. He also said that 80 per cent of single pensioner households and 75 per cent of other adults living alone would be better off.

Loan rate 'too high' Engineer attraction

Bank credit card interest rates should be cut, the Government's consumer watchdog says today.

"Since 1979, bank credit card interest rates have been on average about 14 per cent higher than the bank base lending rate, and more often than not double it", the National Consumer Council said. The rates charged by Visa and Access were "impossible to justify".

The council also criticized the interest rates of retailers. Among eight chain stores, maximum annual rates of interest ranged from 32 to 39.9 per cent.

Nearly 500 men and women who want to become engineers but do not have the right A-levels are taking advantage of a Manpower Services Commission scheme offering a training allowance and a year's free tuition on a polytechnic conversion course.

The scheme, called Hitecc, was praised yesterday by the National Advisory Body for public sector higher education.

Those who complete the course successfully are guaranteed a degree or higher diploma course in engineering or technology.

Crime closes bank

The Trustee Savings Bank announced yesterday that it was closing its branch at Harpurhey, Manchester, because of crime.

Two armed robberies, a mugging and a burglary have been carried out at the branch in the past three months. One woman customer was injured during an attack.

The bank is leaving an autobank machine at a supermarket in the area but has transferred all accounts to other branches.

Luxury ship plan Millions see show

Several Midlands businesses are planning to build a 75,000-tonne luxury liner, the largest passenger ship yet built in Britain.

They are said to have £270 million available and are anxious that as much of the ship's equipment as possible be British-made.

The group is concealing its identity. At present, members are operating through the Institute of Production Control at Stratford-upon-Avon in Warwickshire.

See For Yourself, the two-hour BBC "shareholders' report", which went behind the scenes and explained the corporation's policy, programming and finances, was watched by more than seven million viewers, it was disclosed last night.

About 4,600,000 people watched the next programme, *Open Air Special*, in which Mr Marmaduke Hussey, the BBC chairman, and Mr Michael Checkland, BBC director, answered viewers' questions.

Leads in escape hunt

Police are following up new leads in the hunt for two dangerous convicts after the screening on the BBC's *Crimewatch* programme of video film of their escape by helicopter from Gartree maximum security prison in Leicestershire.

More than 70 people contacted Leicestershire police after Tuesday's programme showed film of the first escape by helicopter from a British jail taken by Gartree security cameras on December 10. Detectives said they hoped that would help them to identify the man calling himself Andrew Downes who hired the helicopter and forced the pilot at gunpoint to land inside the prison.

The video film also showed the two prisoners, John Draper and John Kendall, running to the helicopter.

Machine exploits ceramics

By Robert Matthews Technology Correspondent

American scientists have built the world's first motor to exploit the properties of ceramic superconducting materials.

The building of the Meissner motor at the Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois is a milestone in the development of ceramic products with the unique ability to lose all electrical resistance when chilled with liquid nitrogen.

Dr Roger Poeppel, of the laboratory, said yesterday that the motor represented "a first step towards superconducting motors and generators".

The motor consists of an 8.5 in wide disk of aluminium, with electro-magnets fixed around its rim, which spins over a basin containing two chunks of ceramic superconductor immersed in liquid nitrogen.

The device gets its name from the Meissner effect, the peculiar ability of superconductors to repel any magnetic field that comes near. As each electromagnet passes over the chunks of ceramic, its magnetic field is repelled, providing a kick to the disk, which starts to rotate.

The Argonne machine achieves speeds of up to 50 revolutions a minute, comparable to the speed of a record player. Dr Poeppel said he expected to see practical motors within two years.

The decision to form the units was taken after a study in 1979 showed that about 12 per cent of casualties in any major war would be psychiatric cases involving soldiers suffering from combat stress.

It was estimated that 70 per cent of the soldiers could be returned to the battlefield

Police tag 'put on pub cars'

By Mark Ellis

Sussex police have been marking cars parked outside public houses to identify potential drink-drivers, it was claimed yesterday.

Mr Robert Fidler, a salesman for Bulmer, the cider makers, who made one of his regular evening business calls to The Swan public house in Chichester, West Sussex, before Christmas, said that a policeman who stopped him pealed a white disc the size of a two pence coin off the driver's side headlight and said, "Been to the Swan pub, Sir?"

He said he had not been followed or said where he had been. A barman at The Swan whose new car was parked next to Mr Fidler's says his was also tagged.

Yesterday, the force, which has admitted stopping motorists at random in Brighton last year, denied the claim.

Fresh pressure for health service review

Management reforms proposed

By Jill Sherman Social Services Correspondent

Mr John Moore, the Secretary of State for Social Services, has come under further pressure to launch an extensive review of the National Health Service with the publication of two reports today calling for radical reforms to the service.

Ministers are now considering the reports, from influential right-wing groups, which propose new funding and management structures aimed at producing a more cost-effective and competitive health service.

The first report, from the Adam Smith Institute, calls for a new health service structure involving management to independent groups. It suggests that regional and district health authorities be replaced with health management units.

Hardship linked to death rate in infants

By Thomson Prentice Science Correspondent

The first rise in infant mortality in England and Wales for 16 years could be partly due to poor family circumstances, some researchers believe.

The Office of Population Censuses and Surveys reported the rise from 6,141 deaths among children aged under one year in 1985 to 6,313 deaths in 1986. The rate increased from 9.4 deaths per thousand births to 9.6.

The Central Statistical Office says the UK had a higher infant mortality rate in 1985 than Denmark (7.9) France (8.3) West Germany (9.0) Eire (8.9) Luxembourg (9.0) and the Netherlands (8.0). Only Greece (14.1) Italy (10.3) and Portugal (17.8) were worse.

Infant mortality rates had been falling in all EEC nations because of general improvements in mothers' health and advances in prenatal and perinatal care.

Decreases in deaths of babies aged under a month have been achieved partly through advances in hospital treatment such as intensive care.

The increase in infant deaths in England and Wales in 1986 appears to be among children aged between one and 12 months.

Miss Alison Macfarlane, medical statistician at the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit, said: "It is accepted that there is a group tend to be associated with adverse social conditions."

Other possible explanations for the 1986 increase include the lower take-up rate in Britain for vaccinations against whooping cough and measles, and the increase in cases of acute meningitis.

ment units which would administer health service funds, paying doctors on the basis of each item of work done. General practitioners would register with one unit, taking patients with them.

When patients needed health care the unit would select the course of treatment. Hospitals would be independently managed and their services fully costed, so that the units would have an incentive to select cost-effective treatment.

The units, funded by central government according to the number of patients registered with them through their doctors, would be required to provide full health care. Doctors and patients would be able to choose between units and those units could choose between the services of different hospitals.

Patients would still not have to pay when they saw their GP, and hospital treatment would remain free. "The difference will lie in the way in which the NHS is managed and the routes by which the public funds are distributed", the report says.

It argues that the new system would foster competition, as some units would offer a greater range of services than others on the same per capita budget. Health allocations could vary according to the demographic patterns and location.

The units would not be able to select their own patients but would have to accept the entire list of the GP.

The units would have to be licensed by a ministerial body which would specify standards that had to be attained. The institute also suggests that tax incentives could be in-

troduced to encourage people to put more of their own money into health.

The second report, from the Conservative think tank, the Centre for Policy Studies, also calls for a management shake-up and suggests that the health service could become an independent trust, governed by a non-political board.

The health service management board would be abolished, as would the regional health authorities, being replaced by hospitals and district managers. The report's authors, two former members of the Downing Street policy unit, Dr Oliver Letwin and Mr John Redwood, MP, say that would take health service management out of the political arena and streamline administrative accountability.

Their report says that any review of the health service should include a minimum

range of options: the establishment of the service as an independent trust; increased use of joint ventures between the service and the private sector; extending the principle of charging; a system of health credits and a national health insurance system.

Under the system of health credits, any individual patient would receive a credit note from his GP entitling him to treatment for a specific complaint. The note would cover the charge levied by the health service but if the patient chose to go to a private hospital, he or she could use the credit card and make up the difference out of his own resources or through private insurance.

The Health of Nations (Adam Smith Institute, Box 316, London SW1P, £9); Britain's biggest enterprise ideas for radical reform of the NHS (Centre for Policy Studies, 8 Wilfred Street, London SW1, £2.95).



Health service workers protesting yesterday against ward closures in Manchester (Photograph: Barry Greenwood).

Hospital chiefs demand 145 job cuts

By Ian Smith, Craig Seton and Kerry Gill

Staff wages and medical equipment bills will not be paid unless 145 doctors, managers and technical staff accept voluntary redundancy at the largest teaching hospital in the North-west.

Letters warning of the worst crash crisis in the 200-year history of Manchester Royal Infirmary will be sent this weekend to 4,585 staff.

Projected overspending of £1.7 million on its £61 million budget will leave Manchester Central Health Authority unable to meet monthly wages bills of £375,000.

Neither will hospital authorities be able to pay suppliers already owed £5.6 million for drugs, linen, dressings and food.

The dispute developed as Matthew Collier, aged four, was undergoing a lengthy heart operation which had been postponed three times since last October.

Three consultant cardiologists at the hospital criticized the proposal by the West Midlands Regional Health Authority to pay other health service or private hospitals to take over the treatment of some of their patients "from birth to adult life".

Dr Eric Silove said the plan was "a very convenient piece of political footwork in an attempt to take the heat out of some of the problems".

Talks had started with other regional health authorities and private hospitals, he said.

● A doctor who decided against placing a premature baby on a ventilator did not act incorrectly and was not to blame, a sheriff presiding over a fatal accident inquiry in Glasgow ruled yesterday.

Sheriff John Maguire recorded a verdict after a three-day inquiry that Lynsey Keith, who weighed 1lb 8oz, died from extreme prematurity.

Revolt led by last of the old-school Tories

Child benefit rebels to be carpeted by whips

By Robin Oakley and Nicholas Wood

Three Conservative backbenchers are to be carpeted by the Government whips for their part in the revolt over the freezing of child benefit.

They will be asked why they joined the Opposition parties in the division lobbies without first discussing their concern with ministers and the whips.

No action will be taken over the remaining 13 Conservatives who voted against the Government and the 15 who abstained because the Government's business managers had been forewarned about their revolt.

Five Conservatives, whose names were not on the order paper as supporting the rebel amendment to uprate the £7.25 child benefit in future years in line with inflation, are most likely to attract the whips' attentions. They are Mr Julian Critchley (Alder-

shot), Mr Hugh Dykes (Harrow East), Sir Ian Gilmour (Chesham and Amersham) and Mr Robert Hicks (Cornwall South-East) and Mr Andrew Rowe (Mid-Kent).

Yesterday, a "pleased" Sir Brandon, who led the rebellion that cut the Government's majority to 47, compared with 72 in the debate over the community charge, explained why he defied a three-line whip.

"First, I think it right that children should be brought up, as far as possible, in a financially secure environment."

"Second, child benefit was the most helpful way of releasing people from the poverty trap and he had campaigned for some time which particularly effects families."

"Third, it was part of my long-term campaign to get the Treasury and the Department of Health and Social Security to work together to bring in a tax credit scheme based on the principle of national insurance."

Sir Brandon is an unlikely rebel leader. A shy, courteous and modest man with a deeply ingrained social conscience, he is among the last of the old-school Tories.

He says with gentle self-mockery: "As an Old Etonian, a landowner and an ex-Guardsman, I have all the disadvantages". Not that that proved a handicap when he was seeking a seat. For his first, he beat a certain Geoffrey Howe and Christopher Soames. When boundary changes forced him to look again he beat Leon Brittan and Rhodes Boyson.

In his 19 years in the Commons he has never held a front bench position. He no longer even seeks election to office in the Conservative backbench committees on economic affairs and social security for which his expert knowledge qualifies him.

Few MPs know more than him about the tax and social security systems. But, as he puts it: "The Ton-Ton Macoutes (by which he means the more-Thatcherite-than-Mrs Thatcher Tory Right) would make sure that I was stopped".

That has not, however, prevented Sir Brandon from proving one of the most indefatigable campaigners in Parliament. He has seen a number of the reforms he has advocated and had defeated later adopted.

He wrote a pamphlet in 1966 advocating both the amalgamation of family allowances and child tax allowances and the putting of National Insurance on an earnings-related basis. Both proposals were later adopted.

His main campaign has long been for a tax credit system with the merger of the tax and social security systems. It is his detailed knowledge

of how the social security system operates and the way in which it has built up to 16 million claimants on supplementary and related benefits which leads Sir Brandon to oppose any attempt to freeze or scrap the child benefit system.

The Tories who voted against the Government were: Mr John Birt (Battersea), Mr Julian Critchley (Aldershot), Mr Hugh Dykes (Harrow East), Sir Ian Gilmour (Chesham and Amersham), Mr Robert Hicks (Cornwall South-East), Dame Elaine Kellie-Bowman (Lancaster), Mr Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar), Mr Anthony Marlow (Northampton North), Sir Anthony Meyer (Clwyd North-West), Mrs Elizabeth Peacock (Bath and Spen), Mr Timothy Raison (Aylesbury), Mr Andrew Rowe (Mid-Kent), Mr Robin Scriver (Hornchurch), and Mr Cyril Townsend (Bexleyheath). The tellers for the "rebels" were Sir Brandon, Sir Robert Williams (Ken-sington) and Mr James Lester (Brixton).

Battlefield psychiatry

Counselling to ease stress

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

Twelve British Army psychiatric units are being trained to persuade soldiers affected by battle stress to return to the fighting instead of going home with other casualties.

The field psychiatric teams, consisting of a psychiatrist, two nursing officers and four nursing non-commissioned officers, are mostly deployed with the British Army of the Rhine.

The decision to form the units was taken after a study in 1979 showed that about 12 per cent of casualties in any major war would be psychiatric cases involving soldiers suffering from combat stress.

It was estimated that 70 per cent of the soldiers could be returned to the battlefield

within four days and 10 per cent within a week.

Army sources said yesterday that if soldiers under stress were dealt with effectively and swiftly, away from physically injured casualties, they would represent the biggest single source of reinforcements.

Brigadier Peter Abraham, director of Army psychiatry, in an interview in *Jane's Defence Weekly*, said: "Where else could one get such massive reinforcements. What you are getting back is somebody who is physically fit, who already belongs to a unit."

"This is in contrast with other reinforcements who have to be transported there, who are often less well trained than

the regulars and who are not integrated into the unit already."

Symptoms of battle stress include severe apprehension and restlessness, guilt and despair, trembling, unexpected behaviour and a confused and shocked state.

Army sources said yesterday that stress victims could recover in a matter of days, or even hours. They said that the psychiatric treatment would involve showing stress victims "understanding" and persuading them to talk through problems.

The 12 psychiatric teams have been trained at the Royal Army Medical Corps headquarters, Aldershot.

Border incursion

Britain apologizes to Irish

By Our Defence Correspondent

Sources at the Irish Foreign Ministry in Dublin said yesterday that the incident had been treated with some "astonishment" by the authorities. The Beaver had been seen on radar by air traffic controllers at Dublin airport as it flew over Mullingar, Co Westmeath.

The ministry said: "Britain has conveyed regret over the incident and given an undertaking that they will seek to ensure there is no repetition."

The Beavers, part of the Northern Ireland Regiment Army Air Corps, are used extensively in Northern Ireland for aerial reconnaissance operations.

The Army said the Beaver would have been on a "routine" flight. It said that "a full and proper investigation" was launched as soon as the protest had been made by the Irish Government.

The explanation given to the Republic was that the pilot of the Beaver was new and inexperienced and had not realized that he was forbidden to fly over the border. It is reported that the security authorities in Dublin remain highly sceptical.

The Northern Ireland Office in Belfast said yesterday that the Irish authorities had requested an explanation for the incident, which was passed on through the Anglo-Irish secretariat, set up after the signing of the Anglo-Irish Agreement two years ago.

The Bar also wants the Government to provide two barrister-members on the new Legal Aid Board, which is to take over the running of the £450 million-a-year legal aid scheme from the Law Society. The Bill includes provision for solicitors only.

A number of peers are also expected to press the Government today to ensure the independence of the new board, and will table amendments for legal aid to be granted to all cases before tribunals.

Lord Elwyn-Jones, a former Labour Lord Chancellor, and Lord Mishcon have tabled amendments to ensure that the board's members have experience of both sides of the legal profession and of legal advice services.

Rethink on use of foam in beds

By David Sapsted

Mounting criticism over a loophole in the ban on the use of two deadly types of polyurethane foam was headed off yesterday when the Government announced in the Commons it was considering extending proposed legislation to include beds and bedding.

A report in *The Times* yesterday disclosed that beds and mattresses were excluded from the original terms of the ban, due to come into effect next February.

Mr Brian Fuller, president of the Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers' Association, said the omission of beds made "a nonsense" of the proposed ban, originally aimed only at upholstered suites and chairs.

In the face of criticism both inside and outside Parliament, Mr Francis Maude, the Consumer Affairs Minister, told the Commons: "We are considering whether the proposed ban on standard and high-resilience grades of polyurethane foam in upholstery furniture from February 1989 should also apply to mattresses and bedding."

The announcement came after discussions between Mr Fuller, the Home Office and the Department of Trade and Industry yesterday morning. "I raised the issue because I was surprised and concerned by the report in *The Times* that beds and bedding were not to be included in the ban", Mr Fuller said.

"Our concern has been that the two most dangerous types of foam should no longer get into the home. The exclusion of beds and bedding was quite unacceptable. I am only glad that the minister has acted so promptly and hope he will, in the end, make the ban all-embracing."

In Nottingham yesterday, Mr John Langham, the county coroner, recording a verdict of accidental death on a woman aged 24 who died from inhaling fumes when her mattress caught fire, expressed shock that the ban had not been intended to cover beds.

"I am very disappointed. The same fumes are given off by mattresses as are by sofas and easy chairs. I only hope pressure is brought to bear by firemen, coroners like myself and other people who have to pick up the pieces after this type of fire death", he said.

Latest Home Office figures show that more than 100 people die each year as a result of almost 5,000 bed fires and that another 1,000 are injured.

Originally, the Department of Trade and Industry said beds would not be included because of a working party which had drawn up a much-criticized code of practice last year on controlling the two types of foam, which ignite easily giving off toxic fumes, had only been looking at upholstered furniture.

Pay advice for legal aid urged

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Lord Ackner, the law lord, is to press the Government to set up new pay machinery to advise the Lord Chancellor on appropriate rates of pay for lawyers doing legal aid work.

He has tabled an amendment to the Legal Aid Bill, which starts its committee stage today, which would oblige the Lord Chancellor to set up a legal aid fees advisory committee.

The proposal has the full backing of the Bar of England and Wales, and Mr Robert Johnson, QC, the new Bar chairman, has put it on his list of priorities for his year in office.

Lord Ackner, a former chairman of the Bar and president of the senate, is also pressing for a new statutory duty on the Government to pay "fair" fees to lawyers doing legal aid work.

As it stands, the Legal Aid Bill would remove the present statutory duty.

Mr Johnson said the removal was "most extraordinary".

The Bar also wants the Government to provide two barrister-members on the new Legal Aid Board, which is to take over the running of the £450 million-a-year legal aid scheme from the Law Society. The Bill includes provision for solicitors only.

A number of peers are also expected to press the Government today to ensure the independence of the new board, and will table amendments for legal aid to be granted to all cases before tribunals.

Lord Elwyn-Jones, a former Labour Lord Chancellor, and Lord Mishcon have tabled amendments to ensure that the board's members have experience of both sides of the legal profession and of legal advice services.

Rethinking on use of foam in beds

Killings suspect a raving madman, ex-wife tells court

John Duffy, the man accused of three murders and seven rapes, was at times a "raving madman", his former wife told the Central Criminal Court in London yesterday.

Mrs Margaret Duffy told a hushed court that Mr Duffy, aged 30, was moody and often attacked her. Once she thought he was going to kill her.

She said she left him in June 1983, but returned to his flat in north London on occasions to collect mail. Mr Duffy had sexual relations with her against her will during those visits, she said.

"On one occasion he stuffed a handkerchief down my throat. He was talking nice and kindly, saying he wanted to get back together. Then he tricked me. He said he had something he wanted me to taste. He asked me to close my eyes and open my mouth and he pushed a handkerchief down my mouth."

"He was holding my throat. I tried to push him off. He apologized and said he didn't know what came over him. I thought he was going to kill me."

After the incident, Mrs Duffy obtained a court injunction to prevent him contacting her.

Mrs Duffy said the man accused of three killings dubbed the "Railway Murders" once told her he had raped a girl. "He said he took a personal stereo from her and gave it to me as a present, and said, 'Where do you think I got that from?'"

Mr Duffy has denied the murders of Miss Alison Day, aged 19, on December 29, 1985; Mrs Anne Lock, aged 30, between May and July, 1986; and Miss Margaret Tamboezer, aged 15, on April 17, 1986.

He has also denied seven charges of rape, another serious sexual offence and charges of assault.

Mrs Duffy described her former husband's moods as "very changeable". "He can be really nice and then he would be like a raving madman."

She said Mr Duffy had "scary, scary eyes". "You could not stare at him — you had to look away. You would remember there — it was scary. Sometimes when you look at people you can tell what they are feeling. When you look at him, you can never tell what he is feeling. I had to look away when he was staring at me."

She said that in August 1985, Mr Duffy arrived at the home of her new boyfriend, Mr Imre Lovas, and attacked him with a knife. She tried to part the two men, but was clobbered over the head by Mr Duffy. She and Mr Lovas required hospital treatment.

Mrs Duffy, who divorced her husband in June 1986, said she joined a martial arts club near King's Cross station and practised the moves three or four times a week at home.

The case continues today.

Stockwell stranglings

Pensioner survived attack

An elderly man who survived an attack by an alleged mass strangler, told the Central Criminal Court yesterday: "I shall always have his face in my memory. He ruined my life."

Mr Frederick Prentice, aged 74, claims that Kenneth Erskine, who he later picked out at an identification parade, tried to strangle him.

Mr Erskine, aged 24, of no fixed address, denies attempting to murder Mr Prentice on June 27, 1986, and also denies the murders of seven elderly people in the spring and summer of that year.

Mr Prentice said he was in bed at the old people's home at Bradmead, Cedars Road, Clapham, south London, where he lives, when he heard footsteps in the passage. "I got up and sat on the bed. I saw a shadow through the glass door. I shouted at the person to get out. This figure opened my door and ran to my bed. He got on top of me. I was screaming. He pinned my arms down."

He said the attacker never spoke as he applied pressure to his throat three times and, on the last occasion, "chucked my head against the wall and ran off."

Mr James Crespi, QC, for the prosecution, said there was a pattern throughout the attacks which linked them with Mr Erskine. On a roof at the Clapham old people's home, detectives found a shoe print of the same pattern made by a sole print found at an old people's home in Stockwell, south London, where Mr Erskine allegedly strangled two elderly men.

Mr Erskine is charged with the murders of Eileen Emms, aged 78, at West Hill Road, Wandsworth, south-west London, between April 7 and 10; Janet Cockett, aged 68, at Warwick House, Stockwell, between June 7 and 10; Valentine Gleim, aged 84, and Zbigniew Stabrawa, aged 94, both at Somerville Hastings House, Stockwell, on June 28; William Carmen, aged 82, at Sybil Thornehouse, Islington, north London, between July 6 and 9; William Downes, aged 74, at Hollies House, Stockwell, between July 19 and 22; and Florence Tisdall, aged 80, at Ranelagh Gardens, Fulham, south London, on July 23.

Mr Prentice, during cross-examination by Mr Roy Amlot, for the defence, insisted he had had a good look at the intruder who had a "terrible grin" on his face.

The trial continues today.

Kirkleatham silver saved for nation

Temple Newsam house near Leeds, yesterday became the owner of the most expensive piece of decorative art ever bought by a museum outside London, after a campaign to save it for the nation.

Costing £750,000, it is the Kirkleatham silver centrepiece, by David Williamson the younger. Originally made for the great northern magnifico and landowner Cholmley Turner (1685-1757) the centrepiece is described by Mr James Lomax of the Temple Newsam museum as "a magnificent piece in the late Huguenot or Baroque style".

Staff at Temple Newsam house decided to fight for the centrepiece last July, when the London silver dealers S J Phillips first applied for an export licence. In terms of price it is second only to the Portland Font, bought by the British Museum three years ago for £1 million. According to Mr Lomax, the Kirkleatham piece could have sold for much more at auction.

"We are absolutely delighted", Mr Lomax said yesterday. "Although, with a shortfall of £27,000, we are still inviting contributions."

The purchase is something of a homecoming for the centrepiece. David Williamson and his collaborator, Anne Tanqueray, his sister, made it for Turner — a Whig MP for Yorkshire who lived 50 miles north of Temple Newsam at Kirkleatham in Cleveland. He was a great friend of Lord Irwin, the owner of Temple Newsam, and as Mr Lomax says, "used to give great dinner parties, to people like the Irwins. They may well have used the centrepiece."

The centrepiece will be displayed in a specially constructed bullion room, possibly with special lighting effects to enhance its details.

Mr Nicolas Norton, of S J Phillips, said: "It is fantastic for the nation, as it is a magnificent piece of silver."

At Sotheby's London yesterday, Arthurian legends were selling at more than 10 times their estimates during the first of three sales of the collection of H W Pratley, a bookseller from Tunbridge Wells, Kent, who died last year. At £273,482, the session nearly achieved what had been estimated for the entire sale.

The top price yesterday was £12,650, 12 times the estimate, for a sixteenth century edition of *L'hystoire du Saint Greal*. It is one of the rarest of the Romances of the Round Table, illustrated with woodcuts. The buyer was the Dutch dealer, Hermetica.

A second edition of *Lancelot du Lac*, dated 1533 and relating the episode when Lancelot falls in love with Guinevere, sold to the book dealers Quaritch for £11,220, against an estimate of £2,500.

Christie's set the New York season in motion on Tuesday evening with a successful sale of Old Master prints, which fetched \$451,000, with 12 per cent unsold.

SALEROOM

By Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent



The £750,000 centrepiece, bought yesterday by Temple Newsam house, West Yorkshire.

Gay 'was killed for money by lover'

By Michael Horsnell

A top official with the Greater London Council was murdered by his homosexual lover, who used his victim's credit cards to pay for a saw and meat cleaver with which he cut up the body, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Kingsley Rotardier, aged 46, then pretended that the victim, Mr David Hamilton, aged 35, head of the GLC chairman's office, had contracted Aids and had fled to Hanover for treatment, the court was told.

Mr Julian Bevan, for the prosecution, said Mr Rotardier, a male model, murdered Mr Hamilton, an old

Etonian, at his home in Stockwell, south London, in November 1983, for money.

He said Mr Rotardier stole more than £7,500 from Mr Hamilton's bank accounts and credit cards after the murder and sold objects.

However, he failed to secure £17,000 due to Mr Hamilton in redundancy pay after the abolition of the GLC in March 1986, despite engaging the services of a solicitor.

Mr Bevan said "Mr Rotardier, who was born in Trinidad and had known Mr Hamilton since 1953, burnt the body in an incinerator at night in the back garden of Mr Hamilton's house at 164 Brixton Road."

Tenants on other floors of the house became suspicious after Mr Rotardier claimed that his lover had moved from Hanover to Paris and on to Malaysia in search of treatment for Aids and peace.

Five months after the murder, they reported their suspicions to police.

Mr Rotardier has pleaded not guilty to murder.

Mr Bevan said: "The case centres upon a man who to all intents and purposes disappeared from the face of this earth on the night of November 18 1985, and has never been seen, either alive or dead, since."

How he was murdered would probably never be known, the court was told.

After buying the meat cleaver and saw on one of Mr Hamilton's credit cards, Mr Rotardier allegedly burnt the body in the garden incinerator and within 48 hours was known to have shampooed the carpet in the living room.

"Within a matter of hours of the disappearance, this defendant began to spin a web of deceit which was aimed at convincing people that David Hamilton 'was alive', Mr Bevan said.

Friends of the council official wrote to him and received replies, allegedly forged by Mr Rotardier.

The trial continues today.

Hooked by the art of a fisherman's tale



A ceramic entitled *A Fisherman's Story* intrigues Jaime Quinsey, aged four, at the Cadbury's national exhibition of children's art which opens tomorrow at Birmingham Art Gallery. It was made by Wayne Daniel, aged 15, from the Salesian School, Longhope, Gloucestershire (Photograph: Philip Dunn).

Meningitis research stepped up

By Thomson Prentice

Researchers are making progress towards developing a vaccine against the bacteria responsible for meningitis.

Scientists at the government-funded Centre for Applied Microbiological Research at Forton Down, Wiltshire, and at the Wellcome pharmaceutical company in Beckenham, south-east London, are working on separate projects.

Another team of researchers at Southampton University has claimed significant progress in its use of genetic engineering in the fight against the meningococcus bacteria.

The first human trials of a potential vaccine have been carried out by Wellcome researchers. It will be several years at least before an effective vaccine is available.

The three projects will study the results of epidemiological research published yesterday. All 6,000 people living in Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, where outbreaks of meningitis reached a peak in 1986, gave blood and saliva samples.

Race for vaccine, page 9

Wife on sex abuse charges

By Peter Daveyport

A soldier's wife yesterday became the first civilian in this country to face a court martial after the military authorities had successfully applied to the Attorney General for permission to try Mrs Kathleen Madden.

Mrs Madden, aged 37, appeared with her husband, Acting Lance Bombardier Michael Madden, aged 36, before a general court martial at the Somme barracks, Catterick Garrison in North Yorkshire.

The couple pleaded guilty to 22 charges, mainly of sexual offences against children and mostly committed while Madden was stationed with the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) in West Germany.

They faced two joint charges with Mrs Madden admitting four separate offences and her husband pleading guilty to 16.

The Army said yesterday that the case was unique. Wives of serving soldiers were not subject to military discipline for offences committed in the UK but were covered by the Status of Forces Agreement, which brings them under military jurisdiction, when they were stationed with their husbands in Germany.

Some of the offences happened 10 years ago but were uncovered after the couple were posted to Yorkshire.

The Army said that investigations were first undertaken by civilian police and the couple appeared before a magistrates' court last year.

However, the magistrates decided that they had no jurisdiction to hear the case and the military authorities applied to the Attorney General, who ruled that she could face a court-martial under Part II of the Army Act 1955.

The court martial, which heard psychiatric and social reports, is expected to end today.

Teacher 'wanted to bury wife'

A teacher accused of murdering his wife wanted to bury her himself, a court was told yesterday.

Philip Ashcroft was in a hysterical state, crouched over his wife's body in their home, in Eccleston, St Helens, Merseyside, Inspector Craig Bateman told Liverpool Crown Court.

"Ashcroft jumped on to the bed and got astride her body with one knee on each side, and put his head down to touch her face. It was impossible to reason or get any sense out of him", Mr Bateman said.

"He had to be forcibly taken out of the room."

Mr Bateman said Ashcroft, a biology teacher, pleaded: "We won't need an undertaker. I can do it myself, can't I? I hate those fellows in the black hats. I know what will happen when they take her. They will cut her up. I know, I've done dissection."

Ashcroft, aged 31, and his alleged lover Angela Page, aged 17, deny murdering his wife Glenys, aged 33, on March 12 last year. Ashcroft admits manslaughter. Mrs Ashcroft was strangled.

The trial continues today.

WRVS teas will pay for child unit

By Ian Smith

Profits from tea bars and sweet trolleys run by the Women's Royal Voluntary Service will pay for the first purpose-built hospital unit for sexually abused children.

Youngsters will no longer have to spend stressful hours in police stations and social services departments once the unit is opened at Booth Hall Children's Hospital, Manchester, in the autumn.

Instead, doctors, police officers and social workers will be on hand at the unit to examine, question and counsel abuse victims.

A play area under the supervision of a nursery nurse will also be provided.

Dr Raine Roberts, a leading authority on child sex abuse and senior female police surgeon for Greater Manchester police, welcomed the unit.

She said: "While every possible effort is made to ensure children are subjected to as little emotional upset as possible, there are difficulties when it becomes necessary to send children from hospital to a police station and then refer them to a social worker."

The £80,000 project is funded by the Manchester section of the WRVS to mark the organization's golden jubilee.

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PARLIAMENT

Attendance cash is not in danger, MPs are promised

The Government intended that all those people now entitled to the attendance allowance would not lose their entitlement because of revised wording in the Social Security Bill, Mr Michael Portillo, Under Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, said when the report stage of the Bill was resumed.

However, in response to an Opposition attempt to alter the new wording, he gave an undertaking to go back to the lawyers in order to make sure that it would achieve that intention.

The Bill says that attendance allowance should apply to those who were so severely disabled that in order to avoid substantial danger to themselves or others they required at night another person to be "awake for a prolonged period or at frequent intervals".

The Opposition amendment, which was withdrawn after Mr Portillo's undertaking to consult lawyers again, would have changed this to say that the disabled person required another person to be "immediately available", without specifying that they should be awake all the time.

Mr Margaret Beckett, an Opposition spokesman on health and social security, referred to the Court of Appeal judgement in the case of Mrs Dorothy Moran. Her case had gone back to the Attendance Allowance Board since the Court of Appeal found in her favour but she had not yet received the final judgement, nor any money.

The Government had insisted during the committee stage that the revised wording in the Bill would simply restore the law to what it had been before the Moran judgement, but the Opposition felt that there were certain dangers that it could be interpreted more restrictively.

Mr Portillo said that Mrs Moran would receive a final decision from the Attendance Allowance Board within the next few days.

HEALTH

It was not the Government's intention to create conditions that were any different from those that had existed before the Moran judgement.

Ministers had been assured by the lawyers that those people who had previously been eligible for attendance allowance would still be fully covered by the new wording. But, in the light of the fears expressed by Mrs Beckett, he would go back to them.

Mrs Beckett said that she was grateful for the minister's assurance. The outcome of his further consultations could be very helpful when the Bill came to be considered in the House of Lords.

The amendment was withdrawn.



Mr Michael Portillo: Going back to the lawyers

● Mrs Beckett moved a new clause that would give people undergoing total parental nutrition (TPN) the automatic right to an attendance allowance in the same way as those undergoing renal dialysis.

Total parental nutrition means that a patient is fed through a catheter in the chest or abdomen, spending 12 hours a night hooked up to a machine, she said. It was certainly life-sustaining and a procedure that many people would find hard to endure.

Mr Ernie Ross (Dundee

West, Lab) said that the technique had saved his life in 1985 when wounds in his abdomen failed to heal properly after major surgery and he became unable to take food.

He was too weak to undergo a further operation that could save his life and was down to under seven stone in weight when he was transferred to King's Cross Hospital and introduced to TPN.

His wife helped him deal with the catheter in his chest and work the machine. "The one thing that managed to sustain me was that I knew it was for a very short period of my life." The psychological stress was considerable.

The treatment was one which particularly young and elderly people would find it difficult to cope with. If the minister could not say that attendance allowance would be given automatically could he say that individual cases would be looked at much more carefully?

Mr Portillo said that, while some patients on TPN would continue to qualify for attendance allowance, the Government could not accept that they should qualify automatically.

The only specific treatment that qualified a patient automatically for attendance allowance was renal dialysis. In all other cases it was the effect of the disability on the treatment that was the deciding factor.

While there was conflicting medical opinion on whether TPN patients needed help and assistance, the Government had decided that it did not justify automatic awards.

Some TPN patients might need assistance, either because of other mental or physical disabilities or because they were psychologically unable to cope with the treatment, but others could cope unaided.

Although the Government could not accept the amendment, he would draw the debate and DHSS officials would continue to discuss the issues raised with representatives of the board.

The amendment was withdrawn.



Mr Francis Maude (left) and Mr Joe Ashton, who clashed in the Commons over fire safety rules for furniture

Demand for better fire safety

The Government is urgently considering whether further steps should be taken to make mattresses safer, Mr Francis Maude, Under Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said during question time. Earlier this week he announced a ban on two types of polyurethane used in upholstered furniture.

The minister was also urged to take action on types of filling in cushions and on curtains and loose covers.

To Conservative protests, Mr Joe Ashton (Bassetlaw, Lab) said that Mr Maude had had to make "the most humiliating climbdown by any minister in 20 years" by his action on foam-filled furniture.

"But there is now a major loophole because the legislation does not apply to beds."

In bed-and-breakfast accommodation and in other overcrowded places children often

had to sleep in rooms where there were electric fires. Also people would sometimes fall asleep while smoking cigarettes. "It does nothing but show the incompetence of the minister and the Government."

Mr Maude I do not wish to reduce the matter to party political wrangling because it is not appropriate, but ours was the first Government to do anything about foam furniture at all. This danger has been known about for at least 15 years, if not 20 years, and the Labour Government in the late 1970s did nothing.

None the less, we accept that there might be a problem with beds. He said that he was looking urgently to see if further steps could be taken regarding mattresses.

Mr Anthony Blair, an Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, said that whatever the reasons for fires starting, many

victims were the elderly or children who were not responsible for starting them.

Now that they had secured regulations for not extending consumer protection on foam-filled upholstery in furniture to bedding, cushions and other types of domestic furniture.

Mr Maude said that the toughest regulations in the world on upholstered furniture already existed in Britain, and they remained in force. Safety of mattresses, and that of other bedding components, was covered by the general safety requirements introduced into the Consumer Protection Act last year.

"We are approving standards for items like mattresses and other items which will set the benchmark for safety."

Mr Richard Holt (Lang-

baugh, C) said that, far from doing a U-turn, Mr Maude had acted expeditiously. In fact, the new-style foam had been on the market for only eight months, was untried and had not been tested by consumers yet.

However, if Mr Maude was to be consistent, he should look at bedding, curtains, loose covers and other areas of flammability.

Mr Maude: There is a serious danger that the effect of all this regulation might be to induce in people a false sense of security because there is no way, by regulation and legislation, that you can create complete safety.

Mr Maude also said that his department would be in contact with the Northern Ireland Office about the impact of any regulations on Ulster.

He also told MPs that most home accidents were caused by falls. The home and safety awareness campaigns now in operation had been brought in to try to influence the way people behaved.

Trade and Industry questions

Steel sale not imminent, minister says

Privatization of the British Steel Corporation would be neither practical nor possible before the second half of this year at the earliest, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister of Trade and Industry, said during question time.

A Bill would be presented to the House within the next month or two, but there was considerable other preparatory work to be done before the sale could go ahead, he told Mr Michael Grylls (North-West Surrey, C).

Mr Tim Devlin (Stockport South, C) said that he had received a number of messages of support for the Government's planned privatization of British Steel and there was a widespread wish on the part of the workers at the Redcar plant to be involved in the share issue.

But Mr Rhodri Morgan (Cardiff West, Lab) said that a two-year period of investment by British Steel was coming to an end and the Government would be attempting a serious confidence trick on potential investors if it suggested that the industry could rely on this.

Mrs Margaret Ewing (Moray, SNP) said that steel-making was

so vital to Scotland that the country should not be seen as being on the periphery of the issue.

Mr Clarke said that, although there were no investment applications at the moment, serious decisions would have to be taken in the next few years, probably after BSC had become a private company.

Considerable investment was already taking place at Ravenscraig and elsewhere up and down the country and the Government had no intention of stopping any investment in the run-up to privatization.

Any proposals for further investment in continuous casting in Wales, for example, would be looked at favourably.

Mr Austin Mitchell, an Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, asked whether it was responsible to "hog" a major national asset to a private sector that had a long record of investment in steel and at a time when the stock exchanges were falling.

Mr Clarke said that British Steel had a good record of investment. That was not changed by the fact that there

were no proposals at the moment. A number of proposals were waiting to come forward.

Earlier, Mr John Reid (Motherwell North, Lab) said that the supposed seven-year guarantee on the future of Ravenscraig was seen by many as a timetable for execution.

But Mr Clarke said that BSC's declaration that there was a future for steel-making at Ravenscraig for at least seven years should give considerable comfort to the people of Lanarkshire. It was a tribute to what they had achieved.

There are encouraging signs for the future of manufacturing industry despite the present deficit in trade of £5,000 million, Mr Alan Clark, Minister of State for Trade, said during Commons question time.

Mr Dennis Canavan (Falkirk West, Lab), raising the issue, said that the Government had achieved a remarkable feat in turning a surplus of £5,000 million in manufactured goods in 1978 into the present deficit, which was the worst ever recorded in Britain's industrial history.

This was a direct consequence

of the failure of the Government's economic policies.

Mr Clark said that the situation had nothing to do with the economic policies of the Government. Half the goods involved were semi-manufactured and intermediate-finished items that were used in production in the United Kingdom and which contributed to employment.

The other half was accounted for by consumer choice. The Government was not a giant purchasing agency on behalf of the British consumer.

Why did Mr Canavan not speak to his constituents and ask them why they preferred foreign goods and automobiles? It would not win him votes but he would learn something.

Mr Michael Latham (Rutland and Melton, C) said that those on the Government benches did not have the stone-age view that the only thing that mattered was manufactured goods. The Opposition did not seem to be interested in the output of hundreds of thousands of people working in tourism, insurance and other service industries.

Mr Clark said that he could not go all the way with that. He attached great importance to the performance of manufacturing industry and regretted that it was in deficit. It was the only area of trade still in deficit.

"I am optimistic that it will slowly be corrected because exports are rising faster than imports."

"I do attach importance to this sector and I do not believe that the service sector, however successful and however many people it employs, can ever be an effective substitute for it."

Mr Philip Oppenheim (Amber Valley, C) said that many of the problems suffered by commercial vehicle manufacturers had been due to Government meddling in the 1960s and 1970s when they had been forced to move factories to unproductive parts of the country (Labour protests).

Mr Clark said that he regretted that Leyland Trucks had lost its independence at that time. It had taken some time to effect a recovery, but that recovery was evidenced in the figures that he had just given.

Tory child benefit move defeated

The following report of Tuesday's debate in the Commons on the Social Security Bill appeared in later editions yesterday.

There was support from both sides of the House for a Conservative MP's proposal that child benefit should be uprated each year in line with the retail price index. The Government opposed the measure and it was rejected by 288 votes to 241 - Government majority, 47.

Sir Brandon Rhys Williams (Kensington, C) moved the new clause to the Bill. He said that mothers deserved credit for the work they undertook on behalf of the nation and the Government should not be stingy with them.

It was bad economics and bad social policy to add to the number of people on means-tested benefits. More targeting on the basis of the means test had got to stop. Otherwise, there were going to be more have-nots in the country than haves.

The decision not to uprate child benefit meant at least another 50,000 people thrown on to the heap.

The Conservative manifesto had said that child benefit would "continue to be paid as

now". It was possible to read into that a double meaning. If people were relying on its real value continuing, they had already been proved to have made a wrong reading.

The Secretary of State should not invite Conservative MPs to play a trick such as that on the 10,000 mothers in each of the average parliamentary constituencies.

"We are being invited to play a trick on those mothers, to say 'Ha ha. You have got it wrong. What we really meant was that it would remain at the same arithmetical value.'"

"In private business you cannot treat people like that or you would not remain in business for very long. I do not think we should treat 6½ million mothers in the same way either."

Everyone liable to pay tax during their working years should be a member of a national insurance fund.

There should be a claim on national insurance during the years in which they were unable to support themselves, over the whole cycle of life, childhood as well as retirement. They would repay their contribution to the system during the middle years.

Officialdom needs to be cut in Scotland, says Home

A reduction in administration in Scotland that quicker decisions could be reached was urged by Lord Home of the Hirsel, the former Prime Minister.

Possibly, he added, more meetings of the Scottish Grand Committee of the House of Commons could be held in Scotland to bring debates affecting Scotland closer to home.

Speaking during an Opposition debate on devolution for Scotland, he said that there would be a danger in certain devolution proposals of a split between the Westminster Parliament and a Scottish assembly.

All his life he had supported decentralization in Government. But where there was discontent and frustration in Scotland it was related much less to devolution than to the time it took to deal with

HOUSE OF LORDS

officialdom, whether based in Whitehall or the Scottish Office in St Andrew's House.

Opening the debate for the Opposition, Lord Martin of Shuna said that in 1978 Lord Home had advised Scots to vote against the devolution legislation because it did not include tax-raising powers. It was now clear that the establishment of a Scottish assembly with tax-raising powers commanded the support of more than three-quarters of the Scottish people.

There had been an increase in demand for devolution partly because of the widening of the North-South divide. Scotland was also the only nation to have a separate legal system without a separate legislature.

There was a high volume of American technology being illegally sold to the Soviet bloc, most notably through Norway. "We should have the most urgent and fundamental review of the workings of Cocom."

Mr Clark agreed that there was something in what Mr Atkinson had said.

The supremacy of the Scottish Office was a form of dictatorship, ignoring the wishes of the Scots.

For the Liberals, Lord Mackie of Benshie said that the wish for devolution was real and not some vague Celtic tremor. He had been a party manager in Scotland and had found it extraordinarily difficult to get able people pursuing a career to stand for Parliament.

The reason that Labour's devolution proposals had failed was because they did not involve proportional representation.

Lord Gould, chairman of the Scottish Conservatives, said that to suggest that Scotland would benefit from a Scottish assembly with tax-raising powers was dangerous as it would lead almost certainly to the eventual break-up of the United Kingdom.

More thought for copyright Bill

By Sheila Gunn, Political Staff

The Government is to reconsider major proposals in the Copyright, Designs and Patents Bill, which attempts to lay down intellectual property rights for the next 30 years.

The report stage of the Bill will be delayed until the end of February so that Trade and Industry ministers and officials can investigate the mass of contentious issues left over after seven days of committee stage in the Lords.

The committee scrutiny finally ended in the early hours yesterday after more than 40 hours of discussion.

The Government was so concerned at the slow progress that Lord Denham, the Government whip, took the unprecedented step of warning peers that the committee stage would finish after seven days "at whatever hour". So far there has been only one vote on the 200-page Bill, which has attracted hundreds of amendments.

All this will inevitably lead to the tabling of a mass of further amendments both by the Government and by interested peers during the report stage and third reading. The Bill will then go on to the Commons.

The main issues that Lord Beaverbrook, the Government whip handling most of the Bill, has promised to look at again include:

- Extending the copyright period for photographs.
- Rental rights for copyright owners.
- If and how a charge should be made for copying for commercial research.

● How a "moral right" for artists and others to prevent exploitation of their work will operate.

● The effect on newspapers of "moral rights".

● Seizure rights to prevent private copies of original works.

● Design rights for new products and processes.

● The life of patents for new drugs.

There have also been attempts by peers to put into the Bill issues that had been excluded by the Government, for example to impose a levy on blank tapes.

The biggest headache has been the Government's attempt to introduce "moral rights" in line with the Berne Copyright Convention.

The Arts Council has welcomed the move, but is arguing that the present drafting is unworkable. It gives an artist, or other producer of original work, the right to claim authorship and the right to object to unjustified mutilation of their work.

Mr Rory Coolan, who has led the council's parliamentary campaign, said that the problem was that the moral rights had to be "asserted", yet an artist might not know if somebody proposed to exploit their his or her work.

Interrupted prayers Kinnock excuses named MP

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday excused the Labour MP who plunged the Commons into turmoil on Monday by interrupting prayers to raise the case of a baby awaiting a heart operation.

The Labour leader described the actions of Mr John Hughes, who was suspended for five days for his protest, as a "one-off gesture" that was unprecedented and unrepeatable.

He told a meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party: "It was so spectacular it would be rendered meaningless if repeated by any other member."

The meeting gave a generally hostile reception to a move by Labour right wingers to "turn the heat on" Mr Hughes, MP for Coventry North East.

It was said to have "entirely

accepted" Mr Kinnock's view, which, while clearing Mr Hughes, carried the clear implication that he did not want other backbenchers to follow his example.

Mr George Robertson, a former spokesman on foreign affairs, told his colleagues that he was not "judging or condemning" Mr Hughes, but many other MPs felt equally "strongly about certain issues."

"Obviously, we cannot all let our consciences take precedence over the procedures and standing orders of the House."

Mr Hughes, a Roman Catholic, interrupted the chapel, the Rev Donald Gray, as he began the first prayer and told him that it was inappropriate to say prayers in a chamber that was

Support for child safety measure

A Bill to enable a social worker or health visitor to require a parent or guardian to produce a child, suspected of being at risk, for medical examination within three days, was given an unopposed first reading in the Commons.

It was moved by Mrs Virginia Bottomley (South West Surrey, C), who said that it would fill a gap in the powers available to those charged with responsibility for child protection.

"It is important to introduce this specific, discreet measure. A similar power has been recommended by the commission of inquiry into the death of Kimberley Carlisle."

A balance had to be struck between what appeared, in Cleveland, to be an idiosyncratic, over-zealous approach by one group of professionals, and the lessons to be learnt from harrowing individual cases where parents had been given excessive weight.

When there were clear grounds for concern, there were powers available for a Place of Safety Order. What was lacking was an order that could simply ensure that a child about whom there was widespread concern was seen.

"The fact that the order does not give the local authority the right to remove the child should reassure innocent parents while encouraging social workers that the child can be seen in the medical sense."

The NSPCC had endorsed the measure and the National Children's Home had offered support.

No plans for books VAT

Lord Beaverbrook, a Government whip, said that the Government had no proposals at this moment to levy value-added tax on books but that he could not give any long-term commitment to that effect.

He was replying to concern from peers during question time that, in order to achieve a single internal market within the EEC, the Government might give in to pressure to extend VAT to food, children's clothes and books.

He said that Mrs Thatcher had already made clear that VAT would not be extended to food, gas, electricity, children's clothes or footwear.

Bishop's seat

The Bishop of Guildford, Dr Michael Adie, took his seat in the House of Lords. He was supported by the Bishop of Ely and the Bishop of St Albans.

Court ruling to be pursued

Britain was treating a European Court ruling against Belgium for illegal subsidies to carpet manufacturers as a matter of utmost gravity, Mr Alan Clark, Minister for Trade.

Mr Clark described the subsidies as a particularly flagrant case of breach of treaty understandings, which Britain would continue to pursue.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Treasury and Prime Minister. Debate on Chancellor's statement.

Lords (3): Legal Aid Bill, committee stage: first day. Arts Control and Disarmament (Immunities and Privileges) Bill, second reading.

Scots committee may disappear

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The Government is ready to abandon the Scottish affairs select committee because it cannot provide enough Scottish Tory MPs to man it.

To the fury of Opposition Scottish MPs, it tabled a motion for debate in the Commons last night merely noting a report by the Committee of Selection, which said that it had been unable to nominate a committee.

Failure to re-establish the committee has been a source of constant controversy since the general election in June, when Tory representation in Scotland was reduced to ten with just five backbenchers.

Because the Government wished to retain a majority on the committee, Labour agreed to nine. The Government then nominated all five of its backbenchers, but one, Mr Bill Walker, wrote to the selection committee saying that he had been nominated without his permission.

Another, Mr Nicholas Fairbairn, has said that if he was put on the committee he would try to ensure that it never met.

Last night's move by the Government provoked the anger of Opposition Scottish MPs, one of whom said that it showed

"total contempt for the people of Scotland."

Mr Donald Dewar, leader of the Scottish Labour group, said that his party had taken a constructive and flexible approach, and had been prepared to see Tory MPs from English constituencies put on the committee if that was the only way of having it set up.

"It is an essential part of the scrutiny procedure. It would be a bitter and ironic twist if the one government department in greatest difficulty in terms of public support was to be the only one not shadowed by a select committee," he said.

Record drug seizures

Cocaine seen as worst threat with more on way

By Stewart Tessler, Crime Reporter

Customs officers seized more cocaine last year than in whole of the previous five years, Mr Richard Lawrence, the Customs chief investigation officer, said yesterday.

In 1987 seizures reached a record 358kg, a 261 per cent increase on 1986. Cocaine seized last year was worth more than £44 million, almost a third of the £116 million value of all drugs recovered in 1987.

Customs seizures included 189kg of heroin, 5 per cent more than 1986, while cannabis seizures dropped by 27 per cent from 22,381kg in 1986 to 16,277kg in 1987. There were 4,877 seizures and 2,308 arrests in 1987, against 5,534 and 2,553 respectively in 1986.

Mr Lawrence said that cocaine was now the biggest drugs threat to Britain and he feared that the amount being smuggled in would increase. The traffickers included South Americans, expatriate Britons and Jamaican gangs operating from Florida.

Mr Lawrence said investigators believed the cocaine organizations were being encouraged to make Britain an important market because of the weak state of the dollar against the pound.

Traffickers deal in dollars to buy cocaine and the 27 per cent drop in the value of that currency in the past year means they will get a better return on their investment on Britain's streets.

Ten hectares on a hillside in Bolivia could produce 50kg of cocaine powder fetching £8 million.

Faced with a surplus of cocaine on the United States

market, the traffickers are searching for European markets, often smuggling drugs in freight and using Britain as a transit point.

Last year Customs officers co-ordinated the controlled delivery of 49kg of cocaine and 7kg of heroin uncovered in Britain in transit. Information from Britain also led to the detection of 61kg of heroin, 49kg of cocaine and 2,560kg of cannabis.

A large part of the total Customs cocaine seizure is made up by a 208kg cargo found at Southampton, which is the largest seizure ever made in Europe, and a 53kg haul in London. The 208kg was destined for The Netherlands and Mr Lawrence said seizures of cocaine in Europe last year were expected to show a 200 per cent increase on 1986.

The smugglers were becoming more ingenious. Last month five Columbians were arrested at Heathrow after Customs officers found 16kg of cocaine worth £2 million inside book covers and put between the two vinyl sides of gramophone records. The drugs were placed between the two sides before the records were pressed together.

In Britain there is evidence of British criminals becoming involved in cocaine trafficking and of links to the Jamaican gangs known as Yardies which are now the centre of London police investigations.

Looking at other areas of the drugs seizures in Britain Mr Lawrence said South-West Asia remained a main source for heroin and Turkey was becoming a focal point for smugglers. More than half of the cannabis total seized last



Customs officer Pauline Harris with a hollowed out magazine which contained drugs worth more than £1,000.

year was found in the last quarter of the year. The cannabis smugglers were no longer aiming to bring in large quantities because so many had been seized.

Mr Arthur Rigby, Mr Lawrence's deputy, added a warning that 73 per cent of seizures were from smugglers bringing in drugs through EEC countries. Mr Rigby said that was "a sobering thought", given the approach of open frontiers in the 1990s.

Looking at the use of the Drugs Trafficking Offences Act which allows for the freezing of assets, Mr Lawrence said funds or property

worth a total of £5 million had been restrained by court orders and in one case assets of £163,000 had been confiscated. Eleven other cases had resulted in confiscations totalling £147,000.

A block of cells to house people who have swallowed drugs or are otherwise carrying them in their bodies is to be opened today at Luton airport. The block includes a room where the newest, highly developed equipment enables customs officers to sift through the debris from a specially designed lavatory. Two sniffer dogs will also be used to track drug smugglers.

Social Trends

Illegitimacy soars and divorce rates top the EEC league table

By David Walker

Illegitimacy and divorce rates have soared over the past 25 years and have now reached record levels, according to *Social Trends*, the annual compendium of statistics published today.

In 1961, illegitimate births made up 6 per cent of all births in the United Kingdom; at the end of that "permissive" decade they were 8 per cent and by the end of the 1970s, 12 per cent.

The proportion of births outside marriage, which was stable during the 1960s, reached 21 per cent in 1986, the highest figure recorded since official figures were first collected 150 years ago.

Social Trends' authors point out an increasing tendency for illegitimate births to be registered in person by both parents, suggesting that some illegitimate children are being born to cohabiting couples.

Yet the 1980s are, more than any previous decade, a time of family instability. The Divorce Reform Act 1969, passed during the Wilson Government, is often condemned as a charter for family breakdown because it liberalized divorce.

According to the figures, however, the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act 1984, introduced by the Thatcher Government, has been far more significant in allowing marriages to dis-

TOP TOURIST ATTRACTIONS			
	1984	1985	1986
Historic properties and gardens (millions)			
Tower of London	2.3	2.4	2.0
Kew Gardens	1.1	1.1	1.1
Edinburgh Castle	0.8	0.9	0.8
Roman Baths/Pump Room, Bath	0.9	1.0	0.8
Museums and galleries			
British Museum, Bloomsbury	3.2	3.8	3.6
National Gallery	2.9	3.2	3.2
Science Museum	3.0	2.7	3.0
National History Museum	2.3	2.6	2.7
Tate Gallery, London	1.3	1.0	1.1
Wildlife attractions			
London Zoo	1.2	1.3	1.2
Royal Windsor Safari Park	0.6	0.7	0.8
Chester Zoo	0.7	0.7	0.7
Bristol Zoo	0.6	0.5	0.6
Chessington Zoo	0.6	0.6	0.5
Other Attractions			
Blackpool Pleasure Beach	6.7	6.5	6.5
Madame Tussaud's	2.1	2.3	2.4
Alton Towers	2.0	1.9	2.2
Albert Dock, Liverpool	-	-	2.0

*Free admission *Estimates
*Open during 1984 Source: British Tourist Authority

solve. There were 175,000 divorces in 1985, a record figure and more than double the total in 1971.

Britain has the highest number of divorces per 1,000 marriages among EEC countries. Divorce is 13 times more common in Great Britain than in Italy, for example.

The birth rate in the UK is higher than in all other EEC countries except France and the Republic of Ireland.

Illegitimacy rates in Britain

EUROPEAN BIRTHS AND DIVORCES 1985

	Birth Rate (live births per 1,000 population)	Divorce Rate (divorces per 1,000 existing marriages)	Illegitimacy (illegitimate births as % of total live births)
UK	13.2	13.2	18.9
Belgium	11.6	7.3	5.7
Denmark	10.6	12.6	43.0
France	13.9	8.1	18.6
Germany	9.6	8.6	9.4
Greece	11.7	-	1.6
Ireland	17.6	-	8.6
Italy	10.1	1.1	5.3
Luxembourg	11.2	7.2	8.7
Netherlands	12.3	9.9	8.3
Portugal	12.8	3.7	12.3
Spain	12.1	-	3.9

*Great Britain figure

are comparatively high among black women but the rate of increase between 1971 and 1986 was higher among white women. Illegitimacy rates among Asian women are very low.

In 1986 National Health Service doctors recorded 700,000 new cases of sexually transmitted diseases and while the incidence of syphilis and gonorrhoea appears not to be increasing, other genital conditions are multiplying.

At a press conference Mr Tom Griffin, the Central Statistical Office official who edits *Social Trends*, said that the 1989 edition would try to explain the apparent gap between people's attitudes as revealed in opinion polls and their social behaviour.

British people, according to *Social Trends*, are not measurably enthusiastic about seeking moral guidance from their churches. Total membership of the mainstream Protestant and Roman Catholic churches, down a million from the mid-1970s, is projected to fall by a further

500,000 by the end of the decade.

Britain is a mobile society not only in terms of its marriages. The number of motor vehicles on the roads mounts inexorably; it is matched by, for example, a great growth in the use of cross-Channel ferries. In 1986, 4.1 million accompanied passenger cars were carried by roll on/roll off ferries and hovercraft, up from 2.7 million a decade before.

Britain, however, is a safer place. Accidental deaths (including road fatalities) dropped to just over 14,000 in 1986 from 17,000 in 1976. At the beginning of the 1960s there were 20,000 accidental deaths each year.

Its inhabitants listen to less radio, dump more toxic and polluting material in rivers and ditches and dispatch more elderly people to the care of state and private nursing homes.

Distribution of income grew more unequal during the 1980s. *Social Trends* notes how "benefits in kind" received by the public in the form of schools, universities and the health service, benefit the upper income groups disproportionately.

The top fifth of households, measured by their income, get about £200 a year more each in non-monetary benefits from the state than the bottom fifth.

Britons' appetite for pleasure remains strong. Spending on television and video, has doubled in real terms since 1980 and consumer spending on food and drink has been rising.

Although the number of gaming machines has risen, up to 200,400 machines in 1986 from 156,400 in 1980, that has partly been balanced by a decline in the number of betting shops, bingo clubs and casinos.

Social Trends 18: 1988 Edition (Stationery Office, £21).

Tomorrow: Population trends

Alliance party proposals

Nato and Trident backed

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

A 25-page policy document for the new Alliance party calls for the retention of Trident for the foreseeable future.

It also supports remaining in Nato, more nuclear power and an end to mortgage interest relief.

The 5,000-word document, given to the press yesterday by Mr David Steel, says the party would also consider policies to extend value added tax to food, children's clothing, newspapers and financial services and end universal child benefit in favour of aiming it at the poor.

On its first page, the policy declaration which in some respects goes further than government policies, praises the Prime Minister for strengthening the spirit of enterprise and self reliance and for curbing union power. It says: "She deserves credit for nerve but not for judgement."

The document, *Voices and Choices for All*, was criticized for being too detailed in its policy prescription and of being influenced too much by the Social Democrats.

They have been anxious to prevent Dr Owen, their former leader, depicting it as the Liberal Party Mark 2.

Liberals, however, are complaining that a determination to foil Dr Owen has meant many of their cherished beliefs have been abandoned.

Defence

It calls for a strong united Europe and, in a clear warning to anti-nuclear Liberal activists, says bluntly: "We cannot take risks with defence."

The alliance with the United States was vital for Britain's security but the policy of the new party would be that "for the foreseeable future Britain has no option but to retain and control its own modernized deterrent." By 1991 this will be Trident.

Negotiations between East and West could only be

achieved from a position of strength and because of the relatively small size of British and French nuclear forces, it would be difficult to make large cuts if they were to remain credible.

"Nuclear weapons cannot be disinvented. It would therefore be highly irresponsible to give up a capability we already possess without the creation of an effective international regime for controlling nuclear weapons and materials."

Energy
The new party would also back the development of additional power sources including the "most substantial at present, nuclear energy."

The economy
It fully supports markets for stimulating activity and innovation and rejects any return to the "futile attempts to stem the inevitable by subsidizing industries which had no hope of paying their way." The party would end the privatization of monopolies such as British Gas and British Telecom.

Taxation
An integrated tax and benefit system would be introduced to distribute benefits away from the better off. Universal child benefits are criticized for wasting resources by subsidizing the well-off and would in future be concentrated on the poor.

The party would investigate extending Vat to food, children's clothing, domestic fuel, newspapers and financial services; phase out tax concessions on company cars, and end the married man's tax allowance as a part of a package to tackle poverty.

Industrial relations

Employees should have a greater say in their companies with a share of the profits and there should be greater use of single union deals, no-strike

agreements and pendulum arbitration.

Federal state

The policy document favours a federal United Kingdom with a shift of power away from the centre and proportional representation for all elections.

Local government

Greater power would be given to parents and families to influence education and housing, estates. Schools would control budgets and parents would help to decide what is taught.

In housing, power over budgets would be given to tenants who would have the right to decide who should manage their estates. The party backs the Government in its opposition to local authorities retaining a near monopoly of rented housing and supports the removal of rent controls.

Health

It calls for part of the tax revenue to be set aside as a special health tax and supports an exchange of services between the private and public sectors. The document says that even a properly funded health service would be unable to satisfy every need.

The document says that while a new party cannot have answers to every political question the prospectus is "its initial policy stance."

"The purpose is to indicate, by reference to certain key political questions of the day, the kind of party that its founders seek to create and the strands of political philosophy which inspires it at its birth."

The new party, says the document, is committed to expanding choice, strengthening entitlements and breathing new life into communities.

It believes in replacing bureaucracy and authority with democracy and giving people more power to decide their own future.

Judge seeks parole inquiry

A judge criticized the "lenient approach" of the Parole Board and called for an immediate inquiry yesterday as he jailed a rapist and persistent sex offender for life.

Judge Hazan, QC, launched his attack in the Central Criminal Court after a jury found Alfonso Magnolia, aged 35, a waiter, guilty of raping a hotel receptionist aged 19.

He said that by the early release of persistent prisoners, including sex offenders and armed robbers, the parole authorities were failing in their duty and putting people at risk.

The judge, who leaves the Central Criminal Court this week for the High Court, said

a transcript of his comments would be sent to the Home Secretary.

Magnolia, of Greens Court, Soho, central London, denied rape.

Before imposing sentence Judge Hazan said: "I shall do my level best to ensure that if anyone is rash enough in the future to suggest that you are released at an early date, the Home Secretary will be put on notice of my view that it would be exceedingly dangerous to accede to such a suggestion and contrary to the public interest."

He added: "The public, in particular women and girls, is not getting the protection it deserves from people like you."

That is not the fault of the judiciary. It is due to the intervention of outside bodies."

Magnolia was convicted in December and remanded in custody for reports. Three women on the jury wept when his record was read out.

On the day Magnolia was found guilty, Judge Hazan said: "The time has now come when matters relating to the parole authorities ought to be seriously looked at. I have now dealt with a persistent sex offender and a persistent armed robber who have been released early from sentences and then returned to precisely what they have been up to before."

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WORLD ROUNDUP

No UK snub to Unesco head

Señor Federico Mayor, the new Director-General of Unesco, yesterday denied that he had cancelled a visit to Britain because he felt snubbed (Our Foreign Staff writes). Responding to reports that he wanted talks with someone more senior than Mr Timothy Eggar, Undersecretary of State at the Foreign Office, Señor Mayor said in Paris: "I did not ask to be received at top government level, nor did I expect to be received at that level." He indicated the visit was not cancelled but only postponed.

The Foreign Office expressed surprise yesterday over the reports. It pointed out that Mr Eggar was the minister responsible for Unesco — from which Britain withdrew in 1985 — and that Señor Mayor had shown no sign of being discontented.

Fuel rod protest

Bonn — Riot police in Lübeck yesterday used truncheons to disperse about 400 anti-nuclear demonstrators trying to prevent the loading of spent atomic fuel rods from West German reactors on board a Swedish ship (John England writes).

The demonstrators blocked a railway line to the quayside and overturned empty cargo containers to make a barricade. But police drove them away with only one slight injury to a protester, and the 23 rods were loaded on the special nuclear cargo ship, Signy, without any further incidents. It left for Sweden, where the rods will be stored for 10 years before being returned, as the Bonn Cabinet met to approve a report on the disposal of nuclear waste.

Mulder dies at 62

Johannesburg (AFP) — Mr Connie Mulder, aged 62, a key member of South Africa's ultra-right white supremacist Conservative Party, who nearly became Prime Minister during 1978 in a contest with President Botha, died in hospital here on Tuesday night.

A former senior Cabinet minister, he resigned from the Government and was expelled from the ruling National Party in 1979 after a national information scandal which hinged on secret domestic and international projects involving huge sums of money. Despite turning to the ultra-right after being disgraced, Mr Mulder was not considered as a hard-liner on apartheid. *Fallen crown prince, page 10*

Obituary, page 12

Scandals in Congress

Washington — Pork-barrel politics have embraced even Mr Jim Wright, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, who shipped into last month's \$602 billion (\$329 billion) catch-all spending Bill two paragraphs authorizing the building of a \$25 million "industrial" airport in his constituency that the Federal Aviation Administration says is unnecessary (Michael Binyon writes).

Questions have been raised about how the 1,000-page Bill was passed in a last-minute rush without any scrutiny. The unannounced provision, sponsored by Senators Ernest Hollings and Edward Kennedy, forcing Mr Rupert Murdoch to sell either his television or newspaper interests in Boston and New York has been condemned.

Haiti poll invitation

Port-au-Prince — The military Government in Haiti has issued a late invitation to international observers in an effort to salvage the tarnished credibility of next Sunday's general election (Alan Tomlinson writes).

The regime, retreating from an earlier ban on independent scrutiny, announced on Tuesday that invitations were being sent to the UN, the Organization of American States and the EEC among others.

Elections for a president and a two-chamber parliament are being re-run under close army control after right-wing gunmen wrecked an independently organized ballot on November 29, killing dozens of voters at polling stations while troops looked on.

\$3m China fraud

Peking — In the first incident of its kind reported since China adopted its open-door policy in the late 1970s, a Western bank is said to have defrauded of millions of dollars by the manager of a Chinese bank (Robert Greaves writes). He is still being sought by Interpol.

Sources in Peking said that the Bank of Nova Scotia had been defrauded of an estimated \$3 million (about £1.6 million) by the manager of a sub-branch of the Bank of China in southern Guangdong province, who fled to Hong Kong.

Mr Liang Xiaoting, a manager with the Bank of China, declined to give details.

French spotlight on election funds

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

The French Government has agreed to adopt legislation designed to bring some order to the secretive and frequently scandalous financing of political campaigns. After Tuesday's go-ahead from the Cabinet, Parliament will be asked to pass the measures into law in a special session at the beginning of February.

The reforms would control the public and private financing of individuals and parties. According to M Alain Juppé, the government spokesman, they will affect the most significant sectors of the nation's political life. Virtually every candidate for public office, from the President and deputies to local councillors and mayors, will be obliged to file a statutory declaration detailing his or her financial situation.

The aim, Mr Juppé said, was to be able to monitor any interesting variations in their reported wealth. As any French citizen will tell you, the cash-filled envelope, the "spontaneous" gift and the discreet kickback for insider services rendered, have for years been part and parcel of the way in which politicians and parties have paid for their activities.

Under the proposed laws, statements returned by candidates for the presidency would be published in the *Journal Officiel*. Members of the government and other senior elected officials would have to deposit their returns with a special commission.

This last innovation would be particularly welcomed by M Raymond Barre, the most popular conservative candidate in the presidential race. His campaign is expected to cost up to £30 million — serious money for someone without a party (though he does not lack well-heeled backers). Since the Socialists also favour a more "transparent approach" the new measures can be expected to be adopted more or less intact.

Needless to say, however, not all French politicians are delighted. Pressure from the right, for instance, sunk one proposed clause that would have let ordinary citizens examine their elected representatives' returns. *Spectator, page 8*

Gorbachev dialogue reassures reformers

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The editor of one of the Soviet Union's most popular magazines has made a direct appeal to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, for a swifter rehabilitation of the victims of Stalin's purges during which many former revolutionary leaders were executed and their memories disgraced.

Mr Vitaly Korotich, the editor of *Ogonyok*, the flagship of *glasnost*, said that he now received thousands of letters on the subject and would like it known that he wanted to pursue the theme further.

He was speaking at a remarkable dialogue between the Soviet leader and top editors and artists which took place last week behind closed doors, but which was not reported fully until yesterday. But yesterday Soviet newspapers devoted three pages to Mr Gorbachev's reform speech and the comments of his audience.

Western observers said that the

discussion between intellectuals and a party leader in such an open fashion, with them often advancing criticism of his policies, was unprecedented since the early 1920s, when Lenin was frequently challenged on matters of policy.

Mr Korotich, who in the past has been openly attacked by Mr Yegor Ligachev, the party's chief ideologist, over his enthusiasm for rehabilitating the Stalin era, said that he hoped that the party's special commission, set up last October, would be able to effect quickly "more and more rehabilitations".

Ogonyok's editor expressed a desire to pursue the subject more thoroughly. "We often hold back from publishing material related to events in the past because we do not want to encroach on the period which at the moment is in the charge of party organs."

Mr Korotich did not name names, but intellectuals are known to be anxious to see the rehabilitation,

among others, of Nikolai Bukharin, Lev Kamenev, Grigory Zinoviev, and Alexei Rykov, all executed after show trials in the late 1930s, and of Leon Trotsky, Stalin's chief opponent in the early 1920s, who was assassinated in Mexico in 1940.

Mr Mikhail Alekseyev, the editor of the literary journal, *Moskva*, complained bitterly about the official media's coverage of Soviet history. "Somehow we have managed to know more about the history of England, France and Germany than our own," he said.

On the sensitive issue of history, Mr Gorbachev later replied to speakers from the floor: "Any smoothing down of history is unacceptable for us. History is here. It is only to be truthfully depicted. This is up to our honesty and responsibility and a scientific approach. We appreciate everything that was great in our history, but we cannot forgive those who perpetrated lawlessness, and even more, crimes."

During the exchanges, Mr Sergei

Zalygin, the editor of the literary monthly *Novyi Mir*, expressed strong concern, despite assurances from Mr Gorbachev, that a new party programme for the use of water resources would resurrect a controversial project for turning round the great Siberian rivers.

The project was an early victim of the new concern for the environment which has grown up rapidly inside the Soviet Union since Mr Gorbachev took over in 1985.

He told the Soviet leader that the test of our social awareness and of the active capacity of the intelligentsia and all sections of the population.

The most controversial speech came from Mr Viktor Afanasyev, the editor of *Pravda*. He admitted that the party newspaper had made many mistakes during a "period of confusion" it had suffered in the early stages of reform, and deserved criticism made of it at the party's 27th congress.

He partially blamed the paper's shortcomings on a lack of experience among its journalists, referring to "insufficient preparation for work under new conditions for the resolution of contemporary problems".

He told the meeting that "recently the mechanisms for putting a break on criticism in the press" had been strengthened. "Unfortunately we do not always meet with sufficient support from party organs."

The meeting, clearly designed to give heart to Soviet reformers disillusioned by the dismissal last November of Mr Boris Yeltsin, was welcomed yesterday by intellectuals who feared that a conservative backlash had already begun.

The poet Andrei Voznesensky said that Mr Gorbachev's remarks and the ensuing discussion, with some 40 intellectuals had aroused widespread interest in the Soviet literary world. "The general view seems to be that it was a very progressive meeting," he said.

Israel defies UN and deports four Palestinians

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Israel defied the United Nations Security Council openly yesterday and deported four Palestinians to southern Lebanon, as its inner Cabinet met to approve even tougher measures to put down the disturbances which are continuing unabated throughout the occupied territories.

During the morning, Mr Marrack Goulding, the UN Under Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs, who is on a fact-finding mission, managed at last to visit a refugee camp at Rafah in the Gaza Strip, after having failed to enter three on Tuesday.

Mr Goulding's visit to Rafah, on Gaza's border with Egypt, caught the authorities by surprise. They had expected that he would not try again to enter camps in Gaza, but would instead look at camps on the West Bank.

After visiting doctors in the camp he said that he would report to the United Nations next week. As his speech was translated into Arabic, the crowd clapped and cheered him, on his way, chanting "PLO yes, Israel no".

The Israeli Army alleged later that his visit had provoked a riot that had to be dispersed by tear gas, while UN sources said that the large welcoming crowd was deliberately broken up by the security forces.

The number of deaths during the disturbances rose yesterday to at least 36, with the



Security men, left, trying to stop an elderly Palestinian kissing the UN envoy, Mr Marrack Goulding, on a visit to a Gaza Strip refugee camp yesterday.

death of a man from Qabatyia, near Jenin, from wounds received 10 days ago.

Palestinian sources also claim that two children, aged four months and 12 years, died from suffocation after having been tear-gassed near their home at Ramallah. A 10-year-old from Jabalyah camp, in the Gaza Strip, had emergency surgery after being shot in the chest, and was last night said to be very seriously ill.

The deportation of the four, described by the Army as "among the leaders and the instigators" of the disturbances, came 24 hours after abandoning appeals on the grounds that these were only "a legal character". The UN Security Council voted unanimously to condemn the deportations. They were taken by bus across the border at Metullah and handed over to the Israeli-backed "South

Lebanon Army" militia.

Their most probable route is to be handed over to the Shia Muslim Amal militia for transfer to Palestinian camps near Sidon. Lebanon had said that it would not accept the deportees. It is incapable of enforcing the announcement.

A stormy meeting of the Israeli inner Cabinet endorsed measures drawn up by Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence

Minister, for an even tougher clampdown on the disorders.

This will involve placing the more troublesome camps under prolonged curfew, sealing houses of those accused of incitement, and more arrests.

Mr Rabin is reserving the option of closing the territories to stop Palestinians coming to work in Israel. This labour force has already dwindled to about half the normal number.

The Cabinet meeting broke up in a shouting match between Mr Ariel Sharon, the Trade and Industry Minister, and Mr Shimon Peres, the Foreign Minister, who protested that Mr Sharon had moved to the Muslim quarter of the Old City. Mr Sharon retorted that he had done this to stop Mr Peres giving the Old City back to King Hussein of Jordan. Ministers retreated as the two began shouting.

Clampdown before Central America summit

Costa Rica orders Contra leaders to call off armed struggle or get out

From Martha Honey in San José, Costa Rica, and Christopher Thomas in Washington

President Arias of Costa Rica has served expulsion orders on three exiled leaders of the Nicaraguan Contras living in the country.

In a letter to the three top officials of the US-backed rebel group, the President said that unless they renounced the armed struggle against the Sandinistas they must "leave the country as soon as possible".

The letter, addressed to Señor Alfonso Robelo, Señor Pedro Joaquín Chamorro and Señor Alfredo César, was made public late on Tuesday, just after the three left for a meeting in Guatemala City with other members of the rebel group.

They returned to Costa Rica yesterday and were allowed in without incident. Asked if they would publicly renounce the war, Señor César said: "No, never. Only when there is democracy in Nicaragua."

The latest move comes the day after Costa Rican police raided the political and press headquarters of the Contras and arrested six people. Contra sources in Costa Rica say that the police found documents indicating the office was also involved in directing military operations.

The three men are viewed by the US as key Costa Rican political leaders, but rebel sources in Costa Rica say they have also

been involved in handling funds for the war.

Since coming to office two years ago, President Arias has curbed Contra military activities and barred rebel military commanders from the country, but he has allowed political and diplomatic activities to continue.

The raid and expulsion orders come amid preparations for tomorrow's summit in Costa Rica, where the region's five Presidents will evaluate the progress in implementing the Central American peace accord.

It is expected that Nicaragua will accuse Costa Rica, as well as Honduras, at the summit of harbouring anti-Sandinista rebels.

As summit host and architect of the peace accord, Señor

Arias appears intent on setting an example by rigorously enforcing its provisions in Costa Rica.

The White House has been urging El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica to condemn what it sees as Nicaragua's non-compliance with the founding accord, signed in Guatemala five months ago.

Lieutenant-General Cofia Powell, the National Security Adviser, urged the region's secretaries last week to ask the presidents to criticize the Sandinista Government when the talks open.

The Reagan Administration believes that the chances of getting renewed military aid for the Contras have been improved by Nicaragua's fail-

ure to comply fully with the terms of the agreement, which calls for a ceasefire and an amnesty for all political prisoners.

Senior officials say that the signal the Presidents will send this week is likely to have a decisive impact on whether Congress can be persuaded to approve more military aid, and thus save the Contras from collapse as an effective fighting force.

All five Central American Presidents, including President Ortega, are expected to say that the peace agreement needs more time. The original 150-day deadline for full implementation expired a week ago. Most observers think that the accord is going nowhere.

Armed conflicts continue in Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador. Honduras goes on floating the agreement by allowing the Contras to operate from bases along its border with Nicaragua.

Mr Reagan will submit a formal request for aid on January 26. Congress is due to vote on it on February 3 and 4, and if the request is defeated the Administration will not be able to renew it during Mr Reagan's final year in office.

The White House has not disclosed how much money it will seek. But an outright rejection of all aid is unlikely. Further short-term humanitarian aid is almost certain to be granted.

1,000 babies will be born with Aids

From Charles Brenner, New York

One thousand babies will be born in New York infected with the Aids virus this year, according to state officials who conducted a survey that found an alarming incidence of the disease among infants in poor areas of the city.

The survey, which tested the blood of all new-born infants in the state for one month, was the first of its kind in America. It appeared to confirm the worst fears of Aids experts that the disease was spreading widely among young women in the poor black and Hispanic sections of New York City.

Officials said women were contracting the virus mainly through infected drug syringes or from sex with drug users.

Dr Stephen Joseph, the city's Health Commissioner, said: "The evidence coming in from a number of quarters is starting to dovetail, giving us the same message — and it's a bad news message."

New York has the most Aids cases of any city in the United States. National figures released on Tuesday showed that 50,200 people had been reported to have contracted the disease, of whom 28,000 had died.

In the state survey, the incidence varied widely among new-born babies. One baby in every 43 infants born in the Bronx, the poorest borough of New York City, was found to be carrying virus antibodies, showing that the

mother had been infected with HIV, the Aids virus. In rural areas of the state, only one in 750 carried the antibody.

State health officials said that an estimated 40 per cent of the infants with the antibody were infected with the virus. The figures show that 1,000 infected infants will be born in the city this year, they said.

Dr David Axelrod, the state Health Commissioner, called for urgent measures to warn women of child-bearing age and he urged the state's 50,000 doctors to test all women contemplating pregnancy.

The survey was released after Governor Mario Cuomo of New York sounded the alarm over the spread of the disease among infants in a speech last Monday.

Despite the ravages of the epidemic in America's larger cities, local, state and national authorities have been slow to mobilize publicity and prevention campaigns.

No figures have been gathered on the extent of the disease nationally and proposals in individual states to enforce screening of large sections of the population have run into strong objections from medical experts and civil liberties bodies.

After a wave of alarm in 1986 and early last year, the spectre of the disease as a threat to the heterosexual non-drug-using population appears to have diminished.

Crowd-puller Hart puts private life 'off limits'

From Maureen Dowd, Cambridge, Massachusetts

When Gilbert Fuchsberg, a Harvard student, asked Mr Gary Hart whether he had ever used marijuana or any other illegal drug, he expected that the Democratic presidential candidate would not like the question.

But he did not anticipate the angry reaction from his fellow-students. Many in the crowded lecture hall began booing and hissing Mr Fuchsberg, and one young man turned the drug query back at him, yelling: "Have you?"

After saying that a politician's personal life should remain private, except when it affected the public good, Mr Hart finished by telling Mr Fuchsberg that the answer to his question was: "None of your business." The 1,000 students roared their approval, and more than 200 signed up to work for the

Hart campaign in the New Hampshire primary.

Mr Noah Berger, head of the Harvard-Radcliffe Democratic Club, said: "The questions Hart is refusing to answer are questions that shouldn't be asked." A chastened Mr Fuchsberg felt differently. "He says 'Let the people decide', but then he doesn't give us the information on which to decide."

In a year in which the public is grappling with tricky new delineations on what is important in terms of public leaders' character and privacy, Mr Hart's return from the political grave has become a referendum on several points.

He has struck a chord with people who like the idea of an anti-establishment, non-packaged candidate; with those who think that press investigations of politicians' possible character flaws have gone too far; and with those who yearn for bigger, more romantic figures to enter the Democratic race.

Whether all these people can elect a President is certainly not clear. Many people in polls say they cannot support Mr Hart, and jokes about the reports of his extra-marital relationships continue.

Many feel, as Johnny Carson said, that Mr Hart's trying to ignore his past reputation is akin to Carmen Miranda asking people not to notice that she is dancing with a bowl of fruit on her head. There is certainly a strong streak of continuing disapproval. In a recent *New York Times*-CBS News poll, a quarter of Iowa Democratic caucus voters said they would vote against a candidate because he had been unfaithful to his wife, and nearly half said they would vote against a candidate who "doesn't pay the money owed on campaign debts".

But to judge from the close-up reaction he has been getting on the campaign trail, many find the new Gary Hart attractive, feeling that the ordeal of the Donna Rice episode

has given him a vulnerability and a humanity that were wanting in his previous political incarnations. And his celebrity status provides his appearances with an aura of excitement.

Wherever he has appeared in swings through Iowa, Illinois, New Hampshire and Massachusetts in recent days, autograph-seekers formed the sort of queues that the other Democratic candidates, except for the Rev Jesse Jackson, can only dream about.

In Iowa last week teenage girls giggled, blew kisses and talked of how cute the candidate was, and in shopping malls older women swooned over his "nice smile" and "Kennedy appearance". Men talked about his guts.

Although not all reaction is positive, many treat his return as deserving of a fresh look.

Meanwhile, as Garry Trudeau put it in his *Doonerbury* comic strip, Mr

Hart is "using the media to discredit the media". Though he has given a number of live television interviews, in which he can get across what his aides call his "unfiltered, unfiltered" positions, he condemns television as a distorter of politics.

He has also refused to give formal interviews to most reporters, thus giving the impression that he is quelling an unruly press and going straight to the people. He does make exceptions, often talking to print reporters in off-the-cuff conversations, but only on subjects of his choosing.

At a Boston bar, over a glass of stout, he initiated a friendly conversation with several reporters, talking to them about foreign affairs. But when the discussion turned to what his campaign means to the public, he started to answer and then begged off, saying: "I'll only say something bad about the press, so I'd better not."

(New York Times)

Death of Taiwanese leader

Chiang's deputy to pursue policy of forging China links

From Robert Greives, Peking

President Chiang Ching-kuo of Taiwan, the son of Chiang Kai-shek, the late Chinese Nationalist leader, died yesterday of heart and lung failure at the Veterans' General Hospital in Taipei, the Taiwanese Government announced last night.

Mr Chiang, a diabetic who had suffered from eye problems, had been in office for 10 years. The Government's yearbook said he was aged 78, but other publications gave his age as 77. He had been confined to a wheelchair since September.

Vice-President Lee Teng-hui was sworn in as head of state at the presidential office after an urgent meeting of the ruling Kuomintang (Nationalist Party) Central Standing Committee, the Government Information Office said. His appointment was automatic under the Constitution, and he can legally serve the rest of Mr Chiang's term until 1990, when a new President is due to be elected by the National Assembly.

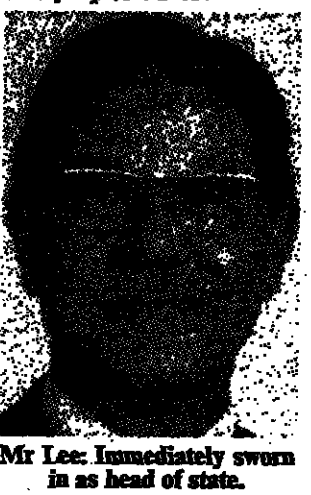
The armed forces were placed on full alert and all street demonstrations were banned for a 30-day period of national mourning, announced after the President's death. There were no immediate reports of disturbances. The announcement of Mr Chiang's death, made by Mr Yu Kuo-hua, the Prime Minister, at the Central Standing Committee meeting, was broadcast on national television, interrupting evening programming.

In the year preceding President Chiang's death, Taiwan had begun to tackle many of the problems that have grown out of its political separation

from mainland China since 1949. Martial law on the island was lifted formally last July. In September a 38-year ban on travel to Hong Kong and Macao was repealed, and Taiwanese have been allowed to visit relatives on the mainland.

The Taipei regime lifted its ban on mainland publications and afforded them copyright protection. It also allows sought-after medicinal herbs grown on the mainland to be imported. In October the Nationalist Government for the first time permitted an opposition political body, the Democratic Progressive Party, to function without state interference.

Indirect trade between the two Chinas, via third parties such as Hong Kong and Singapore, reached \$1 billion in 1987. But Taiwan, with US\$75 billion (\$41 billion) worth of foreign exchange reserves, was much the stronger trading partner. Peking's foreign exchange reserves barely top \$3 billion.



Mr Lee: Immediately sworn in as head of state.

Throughout 1987 President Chiang seemed prepared to do everything in his power to make Taiwan more flexible politically.

The first real post-1949 contact between the two Chinas occurred in May 1986, when Captain Wang Xijue, of Taiwan, flew his China Airlines jet to Canton. Air officials from Taipei and Peking used Hong Kong as the centre for negotiating the plane's return.

Whether the two Chinas draw closer and establish stronger ties under Mr Lee, the island's first Taiwan-born President, will depend largely on how the struggle between old-guard conservatives and progressive elements in the Government is played out.

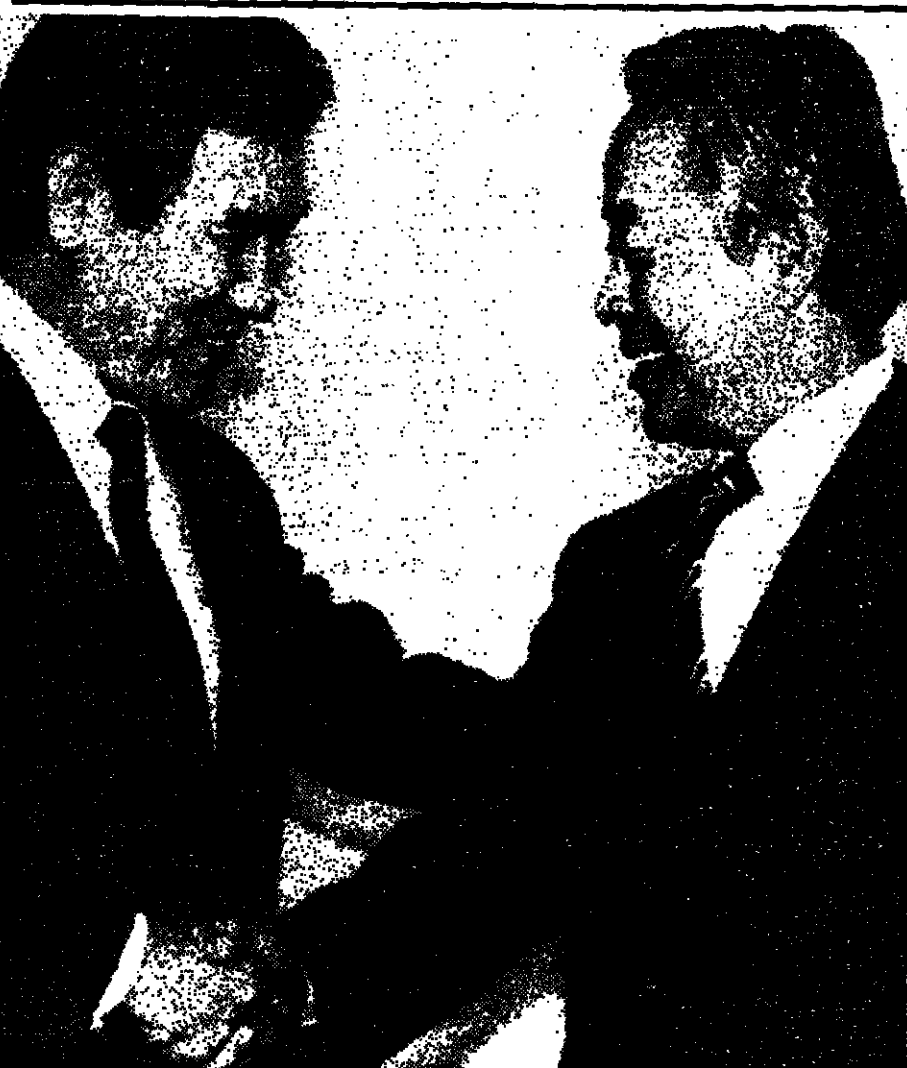
The lifting of martial law and the forming of new political parties may have won the Nationalists valuable support in the post-Chiang era.

But more liberal domestic political policies may serve to make Taiwan more democratic, and thus less willing to reunite with the mainland, than at any time in the last 39 years.

Mr Lee, who is 65 this month, was elected Vice-President in 1984. Before being sworn in as President, he told the Central Standing Committee meeting: "I believe everyone in the country shares with me the deepest sorrow of losing the President, whom we all highly loved and respected. We all also have to turn our sadness into strength to fulfil the wish of unifying with the mainland, which the President did not have time to accomplish."

Obituary, page 12

South Korea's President-elect meets his opposition critic



Across the political divide: President-elect Roh Tae Woo, left, meeting Mr Kim Young Sam, leader of the main opposition, at the South Korean National Assembly in Seoul yesterday.

Roh takes step to political reconciliation

From Our Own Correspondent, Seoul

South Korea's opposing political camps have taken a tentative but important step towards reconciliation with an apparently cordial meeting between Mr Roh Tae Woo, the President-elect, and Mr Kim Young Sam, one of his most vociferous critics.

The three-hour meeting at the National Assembly yesterday was Mr Roh's first with an opposition leader since his controversial election last month, and was all the more remarkable in that less than a month ago Mr Kim was vowing to lead a struggle to overthrow him.

Their reunion was rather like applying a sticking plaster to a shrapnel wound, but at least the healing process has got under way.

Party sources say that it was a discussion of basic positions rather than substantive negotiations on reaching a compromise. However, they had agreed to nominate representatives to settle differences over the timing and methods of the forthcoming parliamentary election.

The ruling Democratic Justice Party insists that it be held before Mr Roh assumes office on February 25, while Mr Kim and his Renminseon Democratic Party have been holding out for a date closer to the statutory deadline of April 28. They also have conflicting views on how to revise the electoral law.

Both sides maintained their positions, but Mr Kim evidently agreed with Mr Roh that they be resolved through dialogue and compromise.

The President-elect was clearly in a conciliatory mood. Urged by Mr Kim to free political prisoners, he said the ruling party would be already preparing to do so. Asked to guarantee impartiality of the state-run television network, he said he had no intention of manipulating the mass media.

But Mr Roh was less forthcoming on some of Mr Kim's more extreme demands, such as the prosecution of government ministers for directing alleged fraud during the presidential election.

Peak-hour traffic shatters the Morning Calm

From Gavin Bell, Seoul

A dark shadow has fallen over the Palace of Shining Happiness in the Land of the Morning Calm.

Having survived Japanese invaders for 600 years, the spiritual haven from which Korea's Yi Dynasty kings transmitted the will of heaven to their subjects is under attack from a more insidious enemy - the internal combustion engine.

The tranquility of Kyongbokkung, and of other imperial palaces in Seoul, is being shattered by a rising and apparently unstoppable tide of traffic swirling around them. To the alarm of city planners, their streets are rapidly becoming among the most congested and dangerous in the world. Emergency programmes have been launched to tackle the problem, but the planners admit that, no matter what they do, it will become much worse.

Traffic jams are a relatively new phenomenon in South Korea. In 1945 there were only 7,000 vehicles in the country and by 1970 there were still only 128,000. Last year there were more than 630,000 registered in Seoul alone, and the figure is rising by 300 a day.

A more disturbing statistic relates to fatal road accidents. In the last comparative study in 1980, the ratio of deaths per 10,000 vehicles in 10 Western countries and Japan varied from 2.2 to 5.3. In South Korea it was 84.

While most of the other countries reduced their death tolls per head of population sharply in the preceding decade, the rate in South Korea shot up by 54 per cent. In human terms, it meant 5,608 lives lost in 1980. In 1986 it was 7,702.

Dr Cha Dong Deuk, director of planning at the Korea Transport Institute, explains: "The primary cause of the high accident rate is the short

history of automobiles in Korea. Our people are simply not familiar with a motorized society. Most of them do not drive themselves, so as pedestrians they do not appreciate the dangers."

Another factor is the hair-raising antics of some Seoul taxi drivers, under pressure to produce high earnings. However, Dr Cha believes the problem will diminish with increasing public awareness of road safety.

He is less sanguine about stemming the flow of vehicles gradually strangling the city. "I think the congestion will increase, no matter what action we take. We have to accept the situation will become ever more aggravated in the future."

In practical terms, it will take commuters longer to reach their offices, and peak periods will expand until eventually there may be no such thing as an off-peak period. According to the Transport

Ministry, the current average speed of 10 mph during Seoul rush-hours will drop to less than 5 mph by the year 2000.

The Government is hastily building ring roads, adding carriages to the underground system, and planning car parks at outlying underground stations. A senior city official has proposed imposing tolls on drivers who enter city-centre areas during rush-hours with no passengers.

A paradox of the Korean dilemma is that for a city of 10 million Seoul still has a relatively low proportion of car owners. Even by the end of the century, when the population is projected to reach 13 million, only one in five is expected to own a vehicle. At present half of all journeys are made by bus and almost a quarter by Underground, and Dr Cha believes this is an advantage which should not be lost.

"People are accustomed to public transport, but they are

gradually moving away from it. We must halt this trend quickly before it is too late, by expanding and improving services."

He proposes allocating additional lanes for buses and linking satellite cities to the Underground system.

At the same time, he says urban expressways will have to be built to provide a "minimum level of access" to heavily congested inner-city areas. "This all requires enormous funding. I believe our efforts will have to be doubled in the next five years."

Dr Cha concludes that the situation is not yet critical, with most commuters reaching their places of work within an hour, but that congestion is coming close to "unacceptable levels in some areas."

Visitors to the Olympics in September may still find temporary refuge from the mayhem in Kyongbokkung - although they may have to risk life and limb to get there.

Canadian jet scare 'a hoax'

Edmonton, Alberta (Reuter) - Police said yesterday that an apparent bomb threat on a Canadian Airlines International DC 10 which forced the evacuation of 268 people might have been a hoax.

The airline said that "the crew discovered a series of notes which indicated a threat against the passengers and aircraft" in the plane's lavatories. No further details were released.

Harare threat

Harare - Zimbabwe threatened to "retaliate" for what it called the abduction of Terence Karamba, aged nine. He has been held by US welfare authorities who accuse his father, Mr Floyd Karamba, a former attaché at the UN, of repeatedly whipping him with electric cord.

In disgrace

Belgrade (AP) - The former Yugoslav Vice-President, Mr Fadil Hodja, has been expelled from the Communist Party for pursuing what Kosovo's provincial party described as a "policy of Albanizing" the region.

Market battle

Colombo - Five civilians died when Sri Lankan soldiers fired back after gunmen killed one at the busy market at Warapitiya in the Southern province.

Mbeki ill

Johannesburg (Reuter) - The South African black nationalist leader, Mr Govan Mbeki, aged 77, is in hospital for examination of "a weakness of his limbs and hands".

Officers killed

Karachi - Two army officers and three outlaws were killed in a clash with armed bandits in Sind province, 150 miles north-west of here.

Falls crash

Harare - A middle-aged West German woman was killed and three other Germans injured when their light aircraft crash-landed during a sightseeing flight over Victoria Falls.

Anti-Eta pact

Madrid - All six political parties in the Basque regional parliament signed a pact rejecting terrorism as a means of deciding the region's future.

UN baby aid

Nicosia (AP) - The UN Children's Fund has offered foreign medical expertise to help save a two-headed baby born in a Tehran hospital.

Pilots strike

Madrid - Iberia will cancel more than 140 flights as Spanish airline pilots, seeking pay rises, staged the first of three strikes this month.

Time running out as superpowers tackle Start pact

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

Important obstacles remain to be overcome as American and Soviet negotiators resume talks in Geneva today on cuts in strategic arsenals.

Mr Max Kampelman, the chief US negotiator, and Mr Alexander Oukobov, his Soviet counterpart, will be working against the clock to put together a Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty.

The Start accord is due to be the centrepiece of President Reagan's fourth and final summit meeting with Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, in late May or early June.

But with time running short there is still disagreement on the extent to which Washington will be able to continue the Star Wars experiments.

Mr Kampelman said in Geneva yesterday: "There are serious remaining differences of importance which must be resolved."

Mr Oukobov said it was possible that agreement could be reached in time, but that the negotiations "will be difficult and we have much complicated work to do".

The Soviet Union believes that the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty precludes tests to space which Washington wishes to carry out to prove the technology of President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative.

Moscow has acknowledged that it is carrying out similar research, but on land without the need for space testing. It seeks to reinforce the 1972 treaty with an agreement that

neither side will withdraw from it for 10 years. Washington is willing to accept only seven years.

After the Washington summit meeting in December there were suggestions that Moscow was becoming less worried about SDI, but Mr Oukobov made it clear that the linkage remained firm.

The treaty envisaged would bring about a 50 per cent cut in intercontinental nuclear forces, including bombers, missiles and submarines. The two sides have agreed in principle to cut arsenals to 6,000 warheads and 1,600 delivery vehicles each. But the timetable for reductions, sublimits on certain weapons and verification procedures remains outstanding.

The Geneva nuclear arms and space negotiations began in March 1985, and led to the signing at December's summit of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty.

There is growing optimism that a new forum for talks on conventional forces will soon be agreed. The negotiations are linked to the Vienna Review Conference of the 35-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, which resumes work in Vienna next week.

The Vienna Review is the umbrella for discussions between all 16 Nato countries and the seven Warsaw Pact states on a forum to consider important cuts in troops, tanks, artillery, aircraft and other weapons between the Atlantic and the Urals.

Battle of Greek airwaves

TV 'brigand' faces jail

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Mr Sotiris Kouvelas, the pugnacious Mayor of Salonika, has been indicted and may be jailed for giving his fellow-citizens a glimpse of the wonders of satellite television, in defiance of the law that makes TV broadcasting in Greece a state monopoly.

Viewers in the northern Greek city of 750,000 people, who usually have the choice of only two government-controlled channels, were suddenly regaled on Sunday night with a 45-minute medley of Boy George, Italian football, Spanish dancing, the Paris-Dakar motor rally and a news bulletin in English.

The authorities did not take kindly to the mayor's initiative. Mr Stelios Papatheodis, the Minister for Northern Greece, compared the mayor's move with "an act of 19th-century brigandage".

Salonika's public prosecutor charged Mr Kouvelas with instigating a breach of the law, which carries a minimum penalty of three months' imprisonment. The trial was set for January 27.

The police, who three weeks ago scuffled with the mayor and his aides in an operation to demolish a hut which had been set up to house the municipal radio transmission

booster, failed this time to locate the equipment that allowed him to relay the satellite programmes to Salonika homes.

Mr Kouvelas, aged 51, is one of three conservative MPs who took over the country's three biggest cities - Athens, Salonika and Piraeus - a year ago after defeating their Socialist mayors in the local elections.

In Athens, Mayor Miltiadis Evert promptly forced the Government to relinquish the state monopoly on radio broadcasting by setting up illegally a municipal station which today tops all popularity ratings. Salonika and Piraeus followed by establishing their own radio stations.

But Mr Kouvelas clearly had more ambitious plans. He also wanted to break the television monopoly which gives the ruling party direct and exclusive access to three million Greek homes.

Significantly, Mr Constantine Mitsotakis, the Opposition leader, called this week on Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Prime Minister, to ask to be allowed to broadcast a 45-minute interview through state television.

Mr Kouvelas denies that he had broken the law which, he

argues, concerns locally produced programmes, not foreign broadcasts. He said: "I simply wanted to give the people of Salonika free what our Prime Minister and other privileged persons enjoy in their homes by installing a £5,000 satellite aerial."

However, the Socialist Government has made it clear that it does not propose to share this powerful instrument of political persuasion with others. A month ago the police forces moved in and wrecked the satellite television aerial that the Mayor of Komotini, near the border with Turkey, was using to relay both German and Bulgarian television programmes.

Elliniki Radiophonia Tileorassi (ERT), the state radio and television agency which enjoys this exclusive privilege, rejected a petition on Tuesday from the municipality of Piraeus for a cable television network licence.

At the same time, the national broadcasters applied to a Salonika court for an injunction to prevent Mr Kouvelas from repeating last Sunday's feat, until the hearing of the ERT lawsuit requesting the confiscation of his equipment and the jailing of culprits.

Genscher heals old wounds in Poland

From Richard Bassett, Warsaw

Any scars marking the somewhat uneasy relationship between Poland and West Germany since the Second World War seemed to have been healed yesterday after talks here between the West German Foreign Minister, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, and the Polish leader, General Wojciech Jartuzelski.

Herr Genscher told journalists at the end of his three-day visit here that his meeting had given a new impulse to German-Polish relations and the green light for a visit to Poland later this year by Chancellor Kohl.

The West German Government, he said, wished the Polish Government well in its programme of reform.

Though West Germany in 1970 recognized Poland's western frontier, which was drawn to include the former German territories of West Prussia, Pomerania and Silesia, Poles have always regarded West Germany, as well as East Germany, with suspicion. The Polish press dwells persistently on the presence of "revanchist" groups in West Germany, who as members or descendants of families which once lived in those territories, harbour desires for a future change in the frontiers.

Yesterday, Herr Genscher did his best to assure Poles that such thoughts were remote from serious political thinking in the Federal Republic. Despite the havoc wrought by the past, he said, Poland and West Germany, enjoyed a "precious relationship" today. "Such relationships are never helped by shrill noises," he said.

Though he was careful not to mention the Second World War in which, on Hitler's orders, every building in Warsaw was destroyed, Herr Genscher did say that Germans would not forget "certain tragic chapters in our joint history".

He went on: "Respect and understanding for different nations with different cultures is a prerequisite of peace, and the past has shown us all too well what happens when such respect is lost."

Though he ignored West German journalists' questions about whether he had persuaded the Poles to increase German teaching in the schools of Upper Silesia, his staff of 17, black-coated, boots gleaming, flanking his arrival at the press centre, yesterday reminded some Poles a little of scenes from the latest war film doing the rounds on video here, *The Night of the Generals*.

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Police adopt ethnic disguise to curb New York violence

From Charles Bremner, New York

The New York police, under pressure to curb a surge of racial violence in the city, have decided to dress officers as Hasidic Jews, poor blacks and other ethnic stereotypes and send them into areas where they may face attack.

The "disguise" teams will have one officer of the "right" race, made up to appear vulnerable to racial taunts, and seven back-up men ready to pounce on any attackers.

This could mean Jewish officers wandering the subway and parks of Brooklyn, where Hasidic Jews have recently been murdered and stabbed, or appearing as lone blacks in districts such as Howard Beach, where a gang of white youths set on a group of blacks and chased one to his death a year ago.

It could also mean appearing as middle-class whites in the Bronx or Harlem, which

are high-crime black and Hispanic areas where few whites dare to tread.

Announcing the creation of the six squads, Mr John Holmes, the city's deputy police chief, said: "We want to create the illusion that the police are everywhere."

Some 500 racially motivated incidents were reported to the police last year - double the 1986 tally. Black civil rights leaders from Harlem have been staging a series of noisy protests around the city.

An incident on a subway train on Monday appeared to echo the case of the vigilante, Mr Bernhard Goetz, whose acquittal for the attempted murder of three unarmed black youths sparked racial anger last year.

A white estate agent pulled out a licensed gun when a black youth attempted to hold him up on a busy rush-hour train in Manhattan. In the

struggle that followed, both men were wounded.

Critics of the Goetz trial said that the jury decided on an acquittal because of a widespread belief that aggressive-looking black youths on the subway were assumed to be up to no good.

The New York police have been successfully using undercover methods to fight crime for years, but decoy units have an unhappy history. Prosecutors are now investigating allegations that units operating on the subway system two years ago made dozens of false arrests to boost their own record.

Civil liberties groups say that they have strong misgivings about the racial decoys.

But the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, the biggest black rights organization, welcomed the move.

Will he or won't he? France's enigmatic President is keeping the country guessing about his intentions in the spring elections

Waiting for the emperor

It would be a great deal easier for the French to decide whether Francois Mitterrand is going to seek re-election as their President if they could only begin to agree who they are talking about. Is it the man sometimes called *Le Florentin*, master of ambiguity and politics in the shadows?

Is it the father of the nation, the great statesman holding himself aloof from a scandal-ridden battlefield inhabited by lesser breeds?

Is it Mitterrand the born gambler with nerves of steel or the cautious and superstitious operator who cannot forget that no president of the Fifth Republic has ever completed two terms in office?

In a perceptive new book on Mitterrand, the French writer Catherine Noy argues that his complex and elusive personality actually represents a masterpiece of metamorphosis. Whenever the need has arisen since he arrived at the Elysee Palace in 1981, Mitterrand has simply "re-created" himself in the face of changing circumstances and requirements.

The seven ages of Mitterrand's first term, she argues, have taken him on a voyage from orthodox socialism, literally wearing a wide cloth cap modelled upon that of his predecessor Leon Blum through a variation on Ronald Reagan-style populism and a spell of pragmatism à la de Gaulle to today's distinctly "imperial" presidency.

This entertaining thesis will strike chords with many an observer of the Mitterrand style. Just the other day, he treated journalists assembled in the splendour of the Elysee's Salon Murat to a scintillating discourse on the constitution, the role of the President, the nature of parliamentary democracy and the ethics of the Press. As he stood before us, exuding pleasure at his own mastery of performance, it was not too difficult to envisage that fine head, chin tilted, eyes narrowed above high cheekbones, crowned with a wreath of laurels.

THE TIMES PROFILE

FRANCOIS MITTERRAND

But the question France wants to know now is what role Mitterrand will be playing in his next incarnation. A few months ago, he turned 71, an age at which seeking another Presidential mandate raises legitimate questions of health and mental competence. We are talking, after all, of the upstart who enlivened the French political scene by announcing that he would run against the 75-year-old General de Gaulle in the 1965 campaign for the Elysee under the unequivocal slogan "A young President for a modern France".

Mitterrand was then 48, a well-established *homme politique* on the move. Son of a railway official who later became director of the French vineyard trade association, he had degrees in law and the arts before the outbreak of the Second World War.

He came back from the conflict with all the right credentials, including the Croix de Guerre and Légion d'Honneur: taken prisoner by the Germans, Mitterrand escaped and served with distinction in the French underground before joining General de Gaulle in London.

Mitterrand's challenge to the ageing de Gaulle unexpectedly carried the election into a second round. Two decades later, the political wheel has turned, and he is now confronted with an opponent eager to exploit what the General poignantly described as "the shipwreck of old age".

In hot pursuit of the Presidency, France's present conservative Prime Minister, 54-year-old Jacques Chirac, was persuaded to pull out all the stops to mobilize younger voters against his partner in uneasy "cohabitation". As for the somewhat prim Chirac, this

involved being photographed wearing blue jeans and listening to tapes of rock super-star Madonna on his Walkman headphones.

Opinion polls registered instant and widespread disapproval, further reinforcing the public perception of Chirac as a loser. For all his prodigious energy, his undoubted resourcefulness, the Prime Minister, whom Mitterrand was forced to accept by the electorate in 1986, has all too often been outmanoeuvred when it comes to image building.

Mitterrand's stamp is on the immensely important new relationship between France and West Germany, on the vital French connection in European defence. "It's rather like a replay of how Mitterrand stifled the Communists when they went in with his party," observes one French journalist. "By the time they woke up to what was going on, the socialists had quietly swallowed them up."

As political pundits are now reminding us, Mitterrand's first shot at the Presidency failed largely because the crafty de Gaulle had responded by delaying the announcement of his own candidature, thus retaining the enormous aura of his office. Many observers are convinced that the President is up to the same thing.

Mitterrand need not declare formally until early in April, allowing him to squeeze out every last drop of presidential prestige — to the unconcealed discomfiture of Chirac, who is on the point of formally declaring himself, and the rival conservative candidate, Raymond Barre.

In the view of the latter, a 63-year-old veteran of French political warfare (he was once voted the most detested former Prime Minister still alive), Mitterrand is already overplaying the part quite shamelessly. After the President made a special Armistice Day trip to the birthplace of the national hero Georges "Tiger" Clemenceau



last November — not forgetting to alert the TV crews to the trip — Barre was moved to complain publicly about voters getting entirely too much of "Mitterrand the great sage, the helmsman of France".

Just once, when France's recent wave of scandals came dangerously close to the steps of the Elysee, during l'affaire Luchaire (the alleged diversion of funds from illicit arms sales to Iran into socialist party coffers), has Mitterrand seemed to be caught off balance. Explaining his side of the story to a sympathetic interviewer, he was attempting rather clumsily

to shuffle blame for not having halted the trade, even after being tipped off about it, on to his former defence minister.

Then, with one bound he was free: the true scandal, Mitterrand proclaimed, lay not at the President's door but was due to the deplorable lack of control over political fund raising. Brilliant, yes. Cynical, definitely. Presidential, hardly.

So is he going to run again? Mitterrand still refuses to come clean, retreating behind that extraordinary impassiveness which has earned him the nickname (not entirely affectionate) of

Le Sphinx. But he surely must, if only because the opinion polls which show him outdistancing any opposition combination, make it clear that the socialists, divided and drifting, have no hope without him.

True, whoever is leading France after April looks like having his hands full. Mitterrand must sometimes be tempted to get out while he is still ahead. His persuasive wife, Danielle, would certainly love to have him at home in Latché, in his native Charente.

Some of those close to him will have nothing of this. "He may

BIOGRAPHY

- 1916: Born in Jarnac, Southwest France. Educated Angoulême and Paris.
- 1939: Served in French army, captured, escaped to join Resistance and later Free French in Britain.
- 1944: Married Danielle Gouze, two sons.
- 1946: Elected to National Assembly.
- 1947: First appointed to Cabinet, Minister for Ex-Servicemen.
- 1953: Delegate to Council of Europe.
- 1959: Served in Senate.
- 1965: Stood unsuccessfully for President (and again in 1974).
- 1971: First Secretary of Socialist Party (vice chairman Socialist International 1972).
- 1981: Elected President, beating Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

dread the idea of serving another full term and he may well try to cut it back to five years," says one insider. "But do you seriously believe that Francois Mitterrand wants to be remembered as the President who let the right back into power?"

This sense of his place in French history is said to be of great significance to Mitterrand, who is probably the West's most intellectual leader with a string of serious books to his name.

Advisers talk of his conviction that much remains to be tackled within French society: racism, the hardships of unemployment, the abysmal standards of public morality. He would certainly love to see the back of Jacques Chirac, whom he is said to dislike personally and blames for most of the country's afflictions.

And with another term, what might Mitterrand achieve beyond the bounds of domestic politics? The press of great events around him in Europe — stock market collapses and economic foreboding, the INF treaty and what it holds for the future of European defence — might be too hard to resist for a man who is convinced, through and through, that France alone holds the key to the future of the region and its relations with the communist world.

Why not leave the last word to Denis Baudouin, who as Jacques Chirac's official spokesman ought to know the enemy. "If Mitterrand is not a candidate, you can chop off my hand."

Philip Jacobson

The face that hides a guilty secret

Denys Parsons got a shock when he stumbled on Christie's November 12 sale catalogue last year. Lot number 1614 appeared to be the very drawing that hung on his living room wall, a portrait in charcoal of his grandfather, the actor manager Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree, by John Singer Sargent, and bearing what looked like the same dedication: "To Miss Viola Tree from her friend John S. Sargent".

The auction house assured him that the work was genuine. After consulting a number of experts, including Richard Ormond, now director of the National Maritime Museum, they had concluded that their picture was another version of the Parsons drawing.

Mystified, Parsons offered to take in his original for comparison. When seen side-by-side, it immediately became obvious that the one for sale was a same-size photograph; certain features, such as

the subject's jaw and the inscription, had been clumsily reinforced with an overlay of charcoal. At the eleventh hour, Christie's withdrew the fake from sale.

In France, certain experts on a given artist have the right to destroy fakes, but here such policing appears to be up to the owner of the original, if he feels so inclined. As soon as the decision to withdraw the lot was taken, Parsons offered £50 for it "just to get it off the market. But the owner turned that down. Christie's invited me to offer more, but I declined". The fake is still at large.

Today, as never before, auction houses direct their publicity towards the general public, as opposed to their traditional clients, the dealers. Some even describe themselves as "retailers", supplying clients who leave bids after an inspection of the catalogue.

Often in these circumstances, although the camera itself never strictly lies, it can



Sarah Jane Checkland

deceive. The Sargent expert, Richard Ormond, says he was shown only a photograph of the withdrawn portrait. The camera can also enhance the look of the goods by way of the catalogue illustration, and sales are completed with the photogenic appeal of the goods in mind.

Before the October Stock Market crash, "retail" buying was particularly popular with rich Americans, particularly those with a penchant for that ever-so-English speciality: paintings of horses and

artfile
A weekly look at the art world

The portrait you treasure could be just a worthless fake — and you might never know

hounds. "A year ago they were indiscriminate, just picking up catalogues and buying. When you think that only 50 per cent of the pictures that look magnificent in the catalogue are actually in good condition, it is quite frightening," said an ex-Sotheby's auctioneer.

Finally, photography is literally the best technique in the making of certain fakes, particularly drawings. Images can be projected on to any surface treated with photosensitive chemicals.

According to Bill Waters,

biographer of Sir Edward Burne-Jones, there are at least three proud owners of drawings by the Pre-Raphaelite artist of the head of Paderewski, the Polish pianist, composer and statesman. "I came across them when I was researching my book," Waters said. "The owners were so convinced, I couldn't bring myself to disenchant them. Anyway, people often won't believe you." According to him, the only way to prove that such skillful photographs are indeed fakes is to "take a rubber to the thing. Even then, it is often a layer of dust which comes off, which looks like charcoal".

Many fakes were made by the Victorian photographer, Frederick Hollyer. He and others like him made a business of mass-producing such images, so the number of fakes is enormous. Often, the original perpetrators of the reproductions were the subjects. According to Waters, all three of the ones he came

across had belonged to Paderewski himself, according to Parsons, it may have been his mother who doctored the picture of Beerbohm Tree.

The difference in market value between fake and original drawings by both artists can be great: a "Hollyer" Burne-Jones sells for £150, while an original can fetch £8,000; an original Sargent drawing sells for £12,000, while a fake is worthless. The only consolation for owners of such photographic fakes is that, as they look so convincing, as long as they resist the temptation to sell them, no one need ever know.

John Singer Sargent, R.A.

Portrait of Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree, c. 1907

signed and dedicated lower right to Miss Viola Tree from her friend John S. Sargent, charcoal, 23 x 18 1/2 in.

£1,000-1,500

The wrong Tree: just a photograph, but advertised by Christie's as a charcoal portrait



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After the runaway success of the Turner gallery in London, it may come as a surprise that Edinburgh and Dublin have their own mini-Turner collections. Since 1900, both groups of 30 watercolours have only ever been seen during the dark days of January due to the conditions of the Victorian benefactor, Henry Vaughan.

He donated the watercolours in order to spread appreciation of the great artist. But, as there were no such things as lighting and humidity control in museums in those days, he insisted on the works being locked away for the other 11 months; as a result, they are in mint condition. Particularly colourful are a dramatic depiction of a Venetian fireworks display at Edinburgh and a very blue Lake Lucerne in Dublin. Even if these galleries did suddenly improve their lighting conditions, they would not be legally entitled to extend the period of display without jeopardizing their ownership.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1462

ACROSS

1 Bewail (6)

4 Bomb explosive (6)

9 Limp, baby (7)

10 Saint John's bread (5)

11 Breeding stallion (4)

12 Run off (7)

14 Plan beforehand (11)

18 Decision to reject (7)

19 Sled (4)

22 Hotel patron (5)

24 Short aria (7)

25 Large piece of land (6)

26 Healthy, strong (6)

DOWN

1 Politically radical (4)

2 Intended (5)

3 Christ's Pharisee supporter (9)

5 Raincoat (3)

6 Gathering (7)

7 Sexual urge (6)

8 Dream of Cereus (5)

11 Robert Maclean's Party (1,1,1)

13 Orbiting body (9)

15 Ponder (7)

16 Flightless Australian bird (3)

17 Sturdy shoe (6)

20 Go in (5)

21 Cautious (4)

23 Small drink (3)

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HEALTH

Racing to find the right vaccine

Research teams are fighting to perfect a vaccine for the elusive Group B meningococcal bacteria which are causing the current outbreak of meningitis. Thomson Prentice reports

For the thousands of families overshadowed by feelings of helplessness in the face of the current deadly meningitis outbreak, the prospect of a vaccine against the disease remains almost their only hope. The illness strikes with devastating speed that some children have died within 24 hours of the first symptoms, before the condition has been diagnosed.

The condition is much more common in small children than adults, and kills about one in 10 infected children. It may leave a slightly higher proportion damaged by deafness or mental retardation. Although antibiotics are effective, they need to be administered immediately the symptoms are recognized. That requires constant and stressful vigilance by parents and doctors.

Despite last week's reassurances from Sir Donald Acheson, the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health and Social Security, that the outbreak may soon peak and cases will decline by the spring, the anxieties remain. Meningitis will not simply fade away: it has to be defeated.

Thus there has been an added sense of urgency in research laboratories this week. Two potential vaccines are being developed, and although progress so far has been frustratingly slow, there are at last some grounds for optimism.

Meningitis is an inflammation of the delicate membranes — the meninges — which envelop the brain. The current outbreak of the disease is caused by meningococcal bacteria, organisms which are carried, by only a tiny percentage of the population, in the nasopharynx — the upper part of the throat.

Most carriers, particularly adults, do not develop the illness because of their natural resistance to infection. But some, particularly very young children, are desperately vulnerable for reasons which are not fully understood.

The bacteria which cause meningitis are grouped into different strains, each of which can be subdivided into specific types. Group A is rare in Britain, but common in Africa, and a vaccine against it already exists. Group C is a relatively weak form of the organism, posing little threat to public health, and there is also a vaccine against it.

It is the Group B, Type 15 strain of the organism which is causing the current outbreak in Britain, and against which the existing vaccines are useless as the chemical structure of every strain is slightly different. This strain may have originated in Norway, which has been suffering persistent waves of meningitis for almost 15 years, and was first recognized in the Stroud area of Gloucestershire in 1981.

Cases in England and Wales have risen annually from 401 in 1984 to just over 1,000 last year, and B-15 has become notorious as an organism which the medical literature describes as being of "low transmissibility, but high virulence". In other words, it is difficult to catch, but can be deadly when caught.

This may help to explain why the disease appears to occur in geographical "clusters": it is not infectious enough to spread through the population at large but remains harboured in small areas of the country.

Today the battle against it is being waged on two fronts, in both the public and private sectors of science.

It is being fought at Porton Down in Wiltshire, at what once was the top-secret Ministry of Defence establishment for germ warfare research, and now is one of the country's leading centres devoted to overcoming some of nature's most onerous threats.

From its secluded, isolated set-



Microbiological battle: researchers at Porton Down take samples of meningococcus from within a Pathogenic Microbe Cabinet

ting in a corner of Salisbury Plain, the Centre for Applied Microbiological Research (CAMR) has emerged at the forefront of international investigation into a possible meningitis vaccine.

The others in the fight are scientists at the giant Wellcome pharmaceutical company's laboratories at Beckenham, Kent. The company, best known recently for its development of AZT, so far the most effective drug to combat Aids, has been working for nine years to produce a meningitis vaccine.

Although the two units are in some ways in competition, their rivalry is tempered by dedication to a common goal. The researchers are prepared to co-operate and

acknowledge the value of each other's work.

"It wasn't a fashionable disease to get involved in when we began, but we feel now that our commitment has been justified," says Dr Robert Lively, who is leading the Wellcome work.

Professor Jack Melling, head of the biology division at CAMR, says: "Finding a vaccine is exciting, challenging work. It's also at times frustratingly slow. But we have to keep going. It's very important to produce effective protection against this disease."

The centre has been concentrating specifically on a vaccine against B-15, but its work has been temporarily thwarted because cases of B-15 meningitis now seem

to be declining in Britain, with the most recent cases suggesting the emergence of different strains.

Dr Dennis Jones, director of the national reference centre for the bacteria, based at Withington Hospital, Manchester, confirms the trend.

"I believe this particular strain is at its peak and its place is being taken by a mixture of different strains," he says. "This is in the nature of the beast, and why we are so closely involved in monitoring it. Our work will help in the development of a vaccine."

Melling feels that "what we are confronted with now is a moving target, so we have to refocus our sights. It isn't necessarily a setback because the information we have

gained in the last year or so will help us aim for a cocktail of various sub-types of the B group."

"Our specific work could also be translated into picking off, one by one, the sub-types of the infection. We aren't discouraged, but clearly a vaccine is still some years away."

In what is probably the biggest step forward so far, the Wellcome team have begun the first human trials of their potential vaccine. A group of 25 volunteers recruited within the company have in recent months been given a compound to test its ability to produce antibodies against the bacteria.

"It has been a long and difficult struggle," Lively says of the project. "But at last there are some encouraging signs."

'What we are confronted with now is a moving target, so we have to refocus our sights'

Wellcome's approach has been to aim for a vaccine which will provide protection against all Group B strains, unlike the specific work at Porton Down.

"We know now from our tests on volunteers that we can raise antibodies against the outer coating of the bacteria, but we don't yet know the quality of these antibodies or whether they are capable of killing the infection," Lively explains. "It will be another six months at least before we know the answers to these questions. If we believe we have succeeded, we would then consider scaling-up the vaccine preparation and taking it into larger trials."

The tests will inevitably involve groups of children, from infants of a few months to about four years old — the section of the population most threatened by meningococcal meningitis and therefore most likely to be vaccinated.

There would be no danger of the vaccine itself causing illness because the bacteria are eliminated by exhaustive purification methods. Given that assurance, many parents would be willing to put their children into the trial, he believes.

"People are crying out for a vaccine and if we can convince them that there is no danger, I believe that they will be more than willing to take part, especially in parts of the country where the outbreaks have been most severe."

But, like Melling, Lively warns that even with good progress, a vaccine is still about five years distant.

In the meantime there is little that they, or anyone else, can offer worried families except the advice to remain on guard. The first symptoms — a high fever, skin rash, headache, discomfort or bright light, drowsiness or vomiting — should prompt a call to the doctor.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Search for safety

Recent reports have drawn attention to the case with which gynaecologists can now determine the gender of the unborn child. Amniocentesis, the most commonly used method, was introduced nearly 20 years ago. The great disadvantage is that the procedure — which involves the collection of cells for analysis from the fluid around the foetus — cannot be undertaken until the 17th week of pregnancy. If serious congenital disease is detected, abortion is then inevitably later than would be desirable. Examination of the cells at this time also reveals the sex of the child. The alternative method, chorionic villus sampling (CVS), can be carried out from the eighth to 11th week.

Not such a snip for hairdressers

Few would consider that being a hairdresser is a very dangerous occupation. But recent work by Dr A.D. Watt, of the Employment Medical Advisory Service in Glasgow, has shown that the trade should be added to the list of those where there is an increased chance of catching hepatitis B. Although worldwide hepatitis B is — as a precursor of cancer of the liver — one of the most common causes of death in the United Kingdom it is mainly confined to certain risk groups: medical staff, prostitutes, drug addicts and homosexuals, all of whom are exposed to infected blood or semen.

Watt, writing in the *Journal of the Society of Occupational Health*, quotes statistics which show that a hairdresser is four times as likely to catch hepatitis B as a nurse, a figure which suggests that hairdressers draw blood from customers' scalps far more often than they admit.

The blood-borne virus enters the hairdressers' bodies

ultrasound examination is needed; a thin tube is then inserted into the space between the developing sac containing the foetus and the wall of the uterus, and some of the tissue which will later form the foetal placenta is sucked out. Only a tiny speck is needed, so the procedure is no more uncomfortable than having the standard smear test. After 30 minutes, most patients are able to leave hospital without any untoward effects, but some may have periodic pains for about 15 minutes and others notice bleeding which can occur at any time in the 48 hours after the operation.

Although 10,000 pregnancies had, up until the end of 1985, been investigated by CVS, it has proved difficult to evaluate the danger of inducing miscarriage, and comparing this risk to that of amniocentesis. Patients who need to have chromosomal studies carried out, either because of the age of the mother or because of the high chance of having a child with chromosomal abnormalities, are the same patients who are more likely to miscarry spontaneously in the first three months of pregnancy. A trial is now being undertaken by the Medical Research Council which, it is hoped, will provide the answer.

through their hands; the constant use of water, hairdriers, dyes, scented lotions and shampoos often results in dry skin, which cracks easily, and massaging a customer's scalp may rub infected blood into the wounds.

Watt has collected statistics which show that females as well as males in the trade are more frequently infected than normal.

Ancient myths

In ancient medical mythology, mistletoe was used in the treatment of the maw, and is still frequently recommended for this use by practitioners of alternative medicine. Recently, physicians in Copenhagen treated 14 patients, suffering from advanced cancer of the kidney, with extract of mistletoe.

They compared their survival time, and the quality of life during their final illness, with that of an untreated control group. The results of the trial, published in *Pulse*, show that there was no difference between the two groups.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

In perfect shape for motherhood?

Dieting may affect more than your figure. Recent research confirms that it can lead to infertility

Medical opinion is united in believing that a controlled diet, leading to a personal "ideal weight-height ratio", can do nothing but good. At the same time, most experts agree that self-imposed very low calorie diets (ranging from as little as 330kcal a day to about 1,000kcal) could be damaging to the body and, in the long run, not more effective than less drastic regimes.

Now, researchers at the internationally renowned Max-Planck-Society for the Advancement of Science in Germany, have confirmed that women in their early twenties on a daily diet of about 1,000kcal risk infertility, as their hormonal balance is disrupted by modified signals from the brain.

While it has been generally accepted that diet might be a factor in infertility, the German team have now established scientifically the relationship between weight and the ability to conceive.

To investigate this phenomenon, Karl-Martin Pirke (at the Society's Institute for Psychiatry in Munich) set up an experiment not previously attempted. Sixty-two healthy and normal weight women between the ages of 18-30 took part in the two-stage test.

Before a menstrual cycle, they were first put on a diet of about 2,000kcal a day which, provided it included the recommended daily amounts of protein, calcium, iron and vitamin C, itemized by the Department of Health, is considered adequate for women in most occupations, provided that they are not pregnant or breast feeding.

During stage one, none lost weight and their menstrual cycles were unaffected. This was confirmed by regular blood tests which measured the concentration of LH (luteinizing hormones) and FSH (follicle stimulating hormones), secreted by the pituitary gland and which influence the function of the ovaries.

At the same time checks were made on the levels of oestradiol, an oestrogen released by the ovarian follicles, and of progesterone, a hormone secreted by the ovary, which prepares the uterus for the implantation of a fertilized egg. All these hormones are essential for conception.

At the beginning of a new cycle, the same group was put on a diet of approximately 1,000kcal a day. This time every woman lost one kilo-

gram a week (between four to six kilograms altogether, depending on the length of her menstrual cycle). Significantly, 37 of them (more than 50 per cent) developed menstrual cycle disturbances, some of which might not be noticeable to the woman herself.

This could have two consequences: either a shortage of oestradiol or inadequate progesterone levels after ovulation. Both conditions make it much more difficult — if not impossible — for pregnancy to develop, and the conditions occurred roughly equally among the women of the control group.

According to Pirke, it is impossible to be sure how long after a crash diet a woman would ovulate again. Some do so shortly after they have stopped dieting and reached their ideal weight. Others might have to wait several months if not longer before they have regained it and the harmful effects of the diet are diminished.

Generally speaking, the younger the woman, the greater the likelihood of excessive weight losses leading to menstrual cycle disturbances. "We have observed significantly more diet-induced disturbances among 19 to 24-year-old women than among the 25 to 30-year-old age group," Pirke says.

The type of diet too was important: assuming equal weight loss, a vegetarian and carbohydrate level diet was much more likely to lead to menstrual cycle irregularities than a balanced diet which included meat and dairy products.

It has been known for some time that anorexia nervosa leads to ovulation disturbances. Women athletes who train excessively can also suffer. In their case they often don't lose too much weight because muscles have replaced fat. But the results are the same.

Howard Jacobs, professor of reproductive endocrinology at the Middlesex Hospital,

London, says that in his experience 30 per cent of women who have failed to menstruate for six months and complained of infertility, were also greatly underweight. When such women became pregnant following hormone treatment, the risk of giving birth to underweight babies grew five-fold.

"The impairment of the menstrual cycle, following excessive weight loss, is very important — though as yet not fully understood," he says.

Pirke has also conducted a series of animal experiments which might help solve this riddle. He was particularly interested in finding the link between diet, the function of the ovaries and the brain.

When rats were on a normal diet, tests showed that the noradrenaline activity in the brain rose sharply before ovulation, resulting in a greater secretion of luteinizing hormones. But when the same rats were put on a rigorous diet, the activity of noradrenaline neurons in that section of the brain which controls the pituitary gland fell considerably: not enough LH was released and no ovulation took place.

Should it be confirmed that these mechanisms also apply to women, it would be another clue to the undisputed connection between underweight women, menstrual irregularities and infertility. Pirke says that every doctor who sees a woman who claims to be infertile must discuss not only her menstrual cycle but also the possibility that her chances of pregnancy might have been affected by excessive dieting. "No woman should remain infertile because nobody has asked her what she eats," he stresses.

Dr John Wass of St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, a hormone expert who treats infertile women says: "I believe that any woman with irregular menstrual cycles who does not conceive must ask herself whether she is eating properly. Her GP should investigate whether she is maintaining her ideal weight-height ratio."

"It would be better for motherhood if women (and for that matter men too) could be persuaded that the perfect female form was not portrayed by Twiggy or Rubens, but determined by the 'ideal body weight' specifications worked out by doctors and insurance companies."

Andrew Wiseman
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The wrong sort of sex appeal? Twiggy, the perfect Sixties' figure, and Rubens' woman

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THE TIMES DIARY

Call for Carrington

In the aftermath of the Cabinet reshuffle following Lord Whitelaw's decision to step down, I hear that Lord Carrington, the man who "lives politics", is still being tipped at Westminster — for the key job of "oiling" the Cabinet committees that the former deputy prime minister so deftly handled. These include the Home Affairs committee, the Aids committee and the all-important Star Chamber. Carrington, who is due to give up his post as Secretary-General of Nato in the summer, was mentioned (PHS December 17) as a possible successor to the leader of the Upper House when he suffered his stroke. Meanwhile John MacGregor, the Agriculture Minister, may also emerge as a Cabinet co-ordinator. Despite his genial appearance, he is reckoned to be tough enough to control senior committee work and keep his present job.

Beyond Ken

Why has Ken Livingstone been scurrying round the Palace of Westminster corridors sticking his head round the doors of rooms booked by his Labour NEC colleagues? The answer emerged when the MP for Brent East finally caught up with them minutes before the end of Tuesday's youth committee meeting. It was not, as his enemies might suggest, that his colleagues had been trying to avoid him, but that he did not know the two previous days' sub-committee meetings had been called off. His secretary had not found the cancellation notices in time. Just an administrative bungle, I'm told, though not having an office yet can't help.

Staying power

Take with a pinch of salt the speculation about Cardinal Basil Hume's retirement which has started as the date of his 65th birthday approaches in March. He has been saying to his friends for some time that "12 years is quite enough" — he was appointed in 1976. But before his 10th anniversary he had been saying that "10 years is quite enough". In addition 65 is no great age for a cardinal: most go on to 70 or 75. There is a well known story that when Hume was first asked to succeed the late Cardinal John Heenan he went to Rome hoping to talk Pope Paul VI out of it. He was told that his acceptance was a matter of holy obedience and that was decisive. If Pope John Paul gets a hint of resignation from Hume, he would no doubt say the same.

Baton round

Students of the Royal College of Organists in London will find themselves unexpectedly in the presence of a master later this month when they collect their diplomas. Olivier Messiaen, the 79-year-old French composer, has been awarded an honorary fellowship by the college and is making a rare trip to England for the occasion on January 23. Two days later the French embassy will throw a party for him, at which he should feel very much at home; his equally celebrated compatriot Pierre Boulez conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra in his presence at the Royal Festival Hall earlier that evening. The programme includes *Chronochromie*, a symphonic work in the Grand Messiaen tradition.

BARRY FANTONI



"I'm leaving the minimalist school and forming the economicalists."

Roped in

Opponents of David Alton's abortion bill are wondering if some of his Tory supporters have gone soft on the rope. Thirty-six MPs who last spring voted to bring back the death penalty yesterday put their names to a Society for the Protection of Unborn Children advertisement headed: "We've abolished the death penalty for murderers and terrorists. Shouldn't we abolish it for him [a pictured fetus] too?" One of the MPs, Tory Teddy Taylor, assures me he still backs capital punishment. "The advert was fine except for the heading. I decided, rather than muck up something prepared, I should go along with it," Phyllis Bowman, SPUC's director, says signatories approved the copy, which highlighted an inconsistency in British values. Labour MP Clare Short, a leading Alton opponent, nevertheless accuses the 36 of hypocrisy. "It shows that their opposition to abortion is not concerned with the right to life but with diminishing women's rights."

PHS

Freeing the market in health

by Madsen Pirie

Nowhere has the bankruptcy of the left's answer to Thatcherism been more evident than in the debate on the future of the health service. Its proposal is to pour in more money: no updating, no reorganization, just more cash. But NHS spending has risen substantially under the present government, by one third in real terms. This is not the answer to the crisis.

A part of the answer is to encourage people to take out private health insurance. A key reason why other advanced countries spend more on health is that people spend it on themselves and receive its benefits directly. Tax rebates for private health insurance could relieve the pressure of demand for NHS resources, even while increasing the total flow of cash into health.

A very small start was made in 1981 when the then Chancellor made private health insurance a tax-free bonus for those earning below £8,500 per year and entered by their employer. This group could be expanded by granting a tax rebate for those undertaking private medical insurance. There are groups not quite able to afford the full cost of this, but who would do so if the price came down through a tax incentive.

By careful market research a tax rebate could be pitched at a level which achieved a net saving to

public funds. After all, for each person going private the demand for NHS facilities is reduced. More to the point, perhaps, is that this group would willingly add a larger chunk of their own funds to the very modest tax incentive needed to trigger this response.

The major challenge, however, is to increase competition and choice within a free, tax-funded service. A proposal which has much to commend it would replace the present regional and district health authorities by independent health management units (HMUs). General practitioners would affiliate one of these, and take their patients in with them. Doctors would be paid by their HMU on the basis of work done, much as NHS dentists are paid. In place of a process which partly encourages doctors to have a large list of patients but to do little for them, there would be payment for each consultation and each item of treatment. An added advantage is that check-ups and preventive measures could be similarly paid for.

When patients needed specialist or hospital treatment, their HMU would select that treatment and pay for it, choosing from the available options. There would thus be competition between in-

dependently managed hospitals, with each item fully costed. A hospital would have to know what the cost was of everything from an X-ray to a kidney transplant.

The HMUs themselves would receive their funds from the government on the basis of an average health allocation for each patient registered with them. For that sum they would have to provide complete health care, from general practitioners at the bottom up to specialist and hospital services at the top. It would be very much in their interest to secure value for money from their doctors as well as from hospitals. The more cost-effective their treatments, the more funds would be left to allocate to their personnel or for additional services.

Doctors would be able to choose between HMUs, just as the units would choose between hospitals. By changing doctors, patients could transfer to another HMU if they wished. The point here is that the money would follow the patient into the new HMU.

Many new elements could be incorporated into this system. An HMU might buy private treatment for its patients where such services were more cost effective. The annual health allocation

might be varied for different classes of patient, or according to region, just as the cost of educating a child varies with the child's age and the geographical area.

Tax incentives might bring additional money into health care, but it is the reorganization described here which can ensure public funds are spent effectively. It does even more than that. It creates a situation in which future improvement is made easier.

One of the strongest features of reform of this type is that each of the elements which combine to produce it is right doing individually. It is right that doctors should be paid according to the work they do. It is right that hospitals should know the precise cost of everything they do. It is good that choice should be available between treatments. It is an improvement to have more flexibility for health management.

While it was not the intention of those who raised the spectre of crisis in the NHS, they have unwittingly performed a major service for their country. The Prime Minister, once forced to concede that "the NHS is safe with us", is now free to bring forward by several years the reforms which must eventually be implemented. The author is president of the Adam Smith Institute. The Health of Nations is published today by ASI (£9).

Michael Meadowcroft argues that the Liberal Party will be irrevocably split by the terms of its proposed merger with the Social Democrats

A case of political suicide



At 10pm on Tuesday night, 30 years almost to the day since I joined the Liberal Party, I realized the bleak alternatives facing me. The Liberal negotiating team had just accepted a name and a statement of principles which I believe will split the party. The leaders' policy declaration had already achieved the unique feat of uniting the entire Liberal policy committee against it, and there were further important concessions still to make. Christmas came a little late for Robert MacLennan.

I had either to swallow the lot and try to persuade hundreds of close Liberal friends to do likewise, with only the threadbare argument of expediency on my side, or resign from the negotiations and join those same friends to persuade the special Liberal Assembly in 10 days' time that if Liberal unity cannot be achieved within merger it would, sadly, be better to maintain it outside merger. I will not be an accomplice in the deliberate creation of a fourth Liberal split in that time-disfranchised line of Liberal Unionists, Coalition Liberals and National Liberals.

That decision could well mean having no party to join. I recognize that, but the words that kept coming to mind were those of J.K. Galbraith in his memoirs: "Liberals... were impressed by the extreme political danger in their own faith and... were willing, accordingly, to become Conservatives to avoid controversy. Pride in professional political aptitude always strongly supports such political abdication... Liberals especially yearn to show they are not above pragmatic concession."

For six years of the Alliance, loyalty required many Liberals to defend the indefensible, all to produce the remarkable result of June 1987. Remarkable that is, in that it got us back, *pro rata*, to precisely where the Liberals were on their own in February 1974.

Loyalty is, rightly, very important, but the question is, loyalty to what? The crucial difference between the Alliance and merger is that in a single merged party the option of being loyal to a separate Liberal entity is not available. Of course, there is a powerful argument for joining and thereafter fighting to transform the new party from within. However, if the name and statement of principles prevent sufficient Liberals from joining, that too is impossible. To ignore those fundamentals and join, in order to change it, would be like keeping with the tactics of Marxism. Entryism should be left to Militant and similar groups.

It is, after all, the name and the preamble to the constitution which determine what a political party is. Whether individual members are aware of it or not, it is that which they assent to when they join. The mechanics of constitution are of secondary importance. However unpleasant, unfortunate or unattractive they are I could not argue that they are reasons for not joining.

The choice of name flies in the face of alphabetical logic and political reality. If the new party is to be a genuine synthesis of Liberalism and Social Democracy then there can be no hostages to arguments of gainers and losers in its name. The sole way of avoiding such a debate is to keep the party names in alphabetical order. To transpose them inevitably provokes a derisive reaction.

If political reality has to be faced, how on earth can David

we would agree that Nato and the Steel convince the many Liberal doubters to give primacy in their party's name to a philosophy which he told the Liberal Assembly in 1977 "had run into the sand" and which will bring to merger less than half as many members as the Liberals and a markedly lower electoral record? It may be rather quirky to mention it, but many Liberals not only like winning elections but do so rather regularly. Many will realize that the name, and the initials, SLD, will be electorally suicidal and will not use them.

The reference to finite organizations, particularly Nato, in the preamble, is a different matter. Neither side in negotiations favoured it. Even Robert MacLennan said on Monday: "It was probably a mistake to include Nato in the original SDP constitution. If we were starting *ab initio*

other organization should not appear in the constitution, but we are seeking to put two constitutions together." In other words: we made an error, let us entrench it.

The argument against its inclusion is clear enough. The preamble should be a statement of timeless values that relate to every aspect of society and to its inevitably ephemeral human institutions. To try and entrench any institution, and particularly Nato, and thus to remove it from the policy arena, will not only focus more attention on Nato but will also reduce the influence the party can have on Nato policy. To include it is an error, and provocative at that.

The Liberal Party's problem over Nato is not in essence about defence policy and party attitudes to Nato. All of us are prepared to see a reference supporting Nato in the policy declaration where it belongs. That is the party's current stance. The preamble should contain the clause: "We believe in collective security with our allies." That is the appropriate conceptual statement.

To confuse the two things creates a serious threat to loyalty and unity. As David Owen was fond of remarking when supporting Liberals like me: "The Liberal Party has a strong Quaker tradition." So it has, and many of them, with other pacifists, will not accept a preamble with an explicit reference to Nato. Many such colleagues have decades of loyal service to the party and there will be sufficient other Liberals who will feel unable to join a party which would force such Friends out, thus causing a split.

As it happens, the Liberal Party may not have to make up its mind solely on the name and preamble. The policy declaration is so illiberal that we may well now have a leadership crisis rather than a merger crisis. After all there is one thing that the SDP and the Liberal party have in common: they both have leaders who disparage the Liberal Party.

I very much wanted merger, but even more I want a united Liberal Party. The proposed package will split the Liberals as much as Owen has split the SDP. Without unity we can achieve nothing. The proposals must be opposed.

Speaking of the 1918 government, Jo Grimond said: "A party of radical change... required the creation of a new political philosophy: a leader who would inspire confidence; and a political base. The Coalition lacked all three." The same comment would apply to merger on the proposed terms.

The author is president-elect of the Liberal Party, and a member of the negotiating team.

Death of Pretoria's disgraced crown prince

Connie Mulder was feeling expansive. It was January 1978 and South Africa's most ambitious politician had just added the portfolio of Plural Relations and Development to his bag of trophies. Minister of Information, Transvaal Leader of the National Party and her apparent to John Vorster as Prime Minister.

The term "plural relations" was a typical Mulder invention, a semantic device to disguise the fact that the bureaucratic empire of which he was now political head was nothing more than Bantu administration in drag, the giant state within a state which ruled every aspect of a black South African's life from birth to death.

There was, however, no disguising Mulder's solution to South Africa's racial problems. An apartheid fundamentalist and a cynic, he believed it was simply a question of juggling numbers. All that was necessary was some constitutional sleight-of-hand to deprive all blacks of their South African citizenship and assign them on paper to various homelands. "What you mean," Dr Mulder, "I told him, 'is that there will be no black South Africans.'"

He grinned triumphantly: "That is exactly what I mean."

Within a year there was no Connie Mulder in Parliament. Destroyed by his incurable belief that you could fool all the people all the time, he had been compelled to resign his portfolios, his seat and his Transvaal leadership. Before the information scandal known as "Muldergate" led to his final disgrace, however, he came within six votes of beating his rival, F.W. Botha, for the leadership of the National Party and the premiership of South Africa, in a bitter succession struggle which led ultimately to the traumatic split in Afrikanerdom and the formation of the far-right Conservative Party.

For all his doctrinaire belief in old-style apartheid, Mulder broke the mould of the old-style doer Afrikaner politician. Large, flamboyant, gregarious, impulsive, radiating bonhomie, his *bon vivant* lifestyle was quite at variance with his Calvinist beliefs. He would lead the singing at National Party rallies with as much enthusiasm as he would peddle his conviction that in the modern world words were everything and

control of those words would ultimately persuade the world to accept South Africa — apartheid and all.

It was a conviction that would lead him into the arms of Eschel Rhoodie, the equally glib and ambitious Secretary of Information, to a bitter life-or-death struggle with the Department of Foreign Affairs for control over South African foreign policy; and ultimately to his downfall. Despite his consistent denials, diligent probing by the South African press and finally by Parliament exposed the extent to which government slush funds had been used to buy influence — and newspapers — in South Africa and abroad.

A judicial commission, appointed after he had failed to win the premiership, revealed that he had lied to Parliament when a year before he had denied that government money was used to launch a pro-Nationalist English-language newspaper, *The Citizen*. Connie Mulder, the crown prince of Nationalist politics, retired, bitter and uncomprehending to his home in the Transvaal, maintaining, as he had to the Transvaal Nationalist Congress, that every-

thing, no matter how tawdry, had been justified in the interests of South Africa.

His bitterness made him a natural ally of Andries Treurnicht's Conservative Party after the National Party split in 1982. Finally, in last year's election, Mulder's old constituency of Randfontein returned him to the Parliament to which he had lied and where he was much mocked by former party colleagues.

There was to be of him challenging Treurnicht for the leadership. Instead he occasionally led the singing at Conservative Party rallies with something of his former gusto. Before his death on Tuesday he had seen his old Department of Plural Relations effectively disbanded by P.W. Botha, as the press laws were abolished and the department's remaining functions were assigned to other government departments.

Today there are more black South Africans than ever. Connie Mulder with all the door-to-door salesman's boundless faith in his pitch, would never believe it but words are not enough.

Fleur de Villiers

Ronald Butt

Being precise about Alton

Why should we worry about late abortions in particular? That and not the principle of abortion in general is what every MP must confront in his or her conscience when deciding next week to support a second reading for Mr David Alton's bill to reduce the time up to which abortions are carried out from the present 28th week of pregnancy to the 18th.

The opponents of a lower date (whether it is 18 weeks or some intermediate time) vehemently resist the reform on the ground that it undermines the 1967 Act which they regard as written on tablets of stone. They are stopping at nothing to destroy the Alton bill, even though it is supported by many who are not opposed to the general position of the 1967 Act. Yet there is a clear distinction between the question of late abortions and that of abortion in principle. The issue for those who regard abortion in general as an evil, even when they accept that it may sometimes be necessary, is the lesser of two evils, is the right to life of a human being who, if allowed to be born, will be unique and unrepeatable. There will be no other precisely similar person.

The argument against abortion in principle does not rest on some complex argument about when precisely the foetus becomes a human being. It is not about the date of viability and whether an unborn baby gets new rights at the moment when it is deemed to be capable of living if delivered.

It follows that it is false logic to hinge the argument about late abortions, one way or the other, on the date of survivability in the light of advances in medical science. If the argument against abortion in general is rooted in the fact that every conceived child is unique, that applies at every stage of gestation. To outlaw late abortions on the ground that a foetus which chanced to escape an earlier abortion has extra rights which the earlier foetus did not have would be simply moral squeamishness and the morals of a lottery.

The case against late abortions concerns not the theoretical status of the foetus in moral law but the pain inflicted on it at that particular stage of development in the process of tearing it to pieces in extracting it from the womb, which is the method in a very high proportion of cases. To oppose the Alton bill it must be categorically denied and disproved that the unborn baby at that stage feels the pain from which it can now be observed on film or ultrasound flinching. In this explicit age uncompromising abortionists think it indecorous to mention the nuts and bolts of abortion, but they are the crux of the matter.

We cannot, of course, know precisely how much pain there is. But neither can we imagine or recall the pain we felt from colic at three months. Yet colic obviously causes pain. Nor can we quantify and compare the pain that can be felt by the baby in the cot with that of, say, a five-year-old. The latter may suffer more acutely but that does not mean that either the child in the cot or the child in the womb suffers nothing.

The report of a distinguished

working party of the Council for Science and Society on embryo research, which included pro-abortion members, has written that "the embryo's 'right' not to suffer pain" is the same as that of any other creature possessing rudimentary awareness. If the developmental focus feels pain, the central question to be asked about the Alton bill is whether we have the right to inflict it now that the reality of late abortions is much more scientifically observable than it was in 1967.

It is said that late abortions are needed to remove handicapped foetuses, which allegedly can only be discovered late. But even if it is considered ethical to abort for handicap, that justification no longer holds now that the use of Chorion Biopsy can detect all handicaps at about 10 weeks, except for spina bifida which can be detected at 16 to 17 weeks.

Nor is the woman's "right to choose" central. Women at present have no such right after 28 weeks, even though the most fanatical feminists wish to have it up to birth. Late abortions cause the latter no moral concern, with one curious exception. Reacting to the reliable reports that doctors have performed gender abortions for Asian mothers to get rid of girl babies after their sex has been determined by amniocentesis tests, they say that the practice cannot be proved but add that they would oppose it as discriminating against women.

Most of us, however, find the idea repugnant not out of egalitarian theory but because we cherish our daughters. To a society rooted in a Christian background the idea of gender abortions is as repellent as the comparable infanticide of the old pagan world. If the Alton bill helps to stop it so much the better. Yet logically, if it is wrong to discriminate against girls, how can it be right to discriminate against the handicapped or the illegitimate?

The central question, however, is the inhumanity of late abortions. How, then, dare Mr Larry Whitty, the general secretary of the Labour Party, send round what amounts to a Whip to all Labour MPs telling them that it is "party policy" to support the 1967 Act and giving reasons why they should vote against the Alton bill? How dare Mr Derek Foster, the Labour Chief Whip, write to all Labour MPs "bringing to your attention the very great importance" of their attendance in the House for the bill, with the clear implication that they should oppose it. Labour's official sentiments are not far short of those of the leftist Campaign Group whose minutes for October 27 say of the Alton bill, "Labour policy is now quite clear and does not allow for a conscience vote", asking for a three-line Whip.

Very many Labour MPs are better than that. They and members of all parties should address the matter not from fixed positions about abortion in general but about the very specific and narrow humanitarian question brought to Parliament by an outstandingly brave MP who has faced vilification for doing so.

however... Joseph Connolly

George and the dragonettes

Over the centuries, many artists have been attracted by whatever it is that attracts artists to Hampstead — young Keats springs to mind, spending the last of his short life in Westworth Place, where he heard the nightingale. Just around the corner is the current residence of Boy George, where you can barely hear yourself think. The noise has nothing to do with Mr O'Dowd himself, who alternates between being reclusive and somewhere else entirely, but is generated by the ever-changing but constantly dedicated knot of female fans who day and night stand vigil outside the house, endlessly playing old Culture Club hits. The glimmer in the eyes of these very young girls leaves you in no doubt that they are indeed mad about the Boy.

The other afternoon, a bevy of them was shambling along Flank Walk (I think it was the night shift clocking on) when the heavens of a sudden were torn into a freak thunderstorm and the girls — worried for their hair and ghetto-blasters — rushed for the nearest cover: my bookshop, wouldn't you know it. It was as if edited highlights of *Fantasia* had strayed into the Albemarle.

"Good afternoon, ladies," I said, while my eyes tried to cope with it all. The one uniform element in their highly individual get-ups was an oversized T-shirt bearing what looked like the stylized Nazi eagle surmounting the word Boy to which some of the girls had added their own names in felt-tip marker. I became a little embarrassed reading all this — the truth is I have never come to terms with designer-slogans, whereby one must look someone right in the chest in order to discover what they think. I once encountered an anarchist whose T-shirt read *Eat The Rich* and for a long time I assumed it was sponsored by McVitie's and that the word Tea was obscured by the fellow's waistband.

"We love Boy George!" shouted one of the girls, as might a supporter of Manchester United. "My name is Sharon." She had

long, blonde hair growing from a good deal of her head, the rest being shaved so as to provide space for the word Boy in black ink. From one ear there hung a curtain ring, and from the other (I swear) her bus pass.

"How old joo fink I am?" piped up another, whose name was Laura — but only until she could change it by deed poll to Boy. Her face was aglow with Rimmel and Boots No. 7, but the clear skin and puppy fat still showed through.

"Fifteen?" I tried. She was delighted with my response — she had just turned twelve. Age seemed to be a preoccupation. "What's it like to be really old?" asked Sharon. I had no clever retorts — I felt about 100. "Mind you," she conceded, "Something could be done with you."

"Done?" I said. Oh Lord, I thought. They edged closer. "Why don't you cut your hair really short and just have a long bit hanging down over your nose? I'll lend you some eye shadow."

They edged closer. One of their stereotypes was betting on "Chamelon" and Boy Laura had to shout to be heard: "I've scarves around your head! Like some tip gloss?"

They edged closer. Half of me was thinking what a funny old life it is and the other half was thinking, oh for the love of God help me. Pots of make-up, scissors and jewellery were appearing.

"Look!" I bellowed excitedly. "Look! Out of the window! It's him! There he goes! Quick — you'll get an autograph!"

A collective shriek of ecstasy rose upon the air and they rushed to the door, pursuing down the high street the hunched up figure of Mr Stobbins, the bank manager, who was soon quick to ditch dignity in favour of fleeing for his life. I dropped the forehead and contemplated the oddity of these girls who wished to look like a girl called Boy who looks like a girl. Still, I conceded indulgently, it's only youthful high spirits and folly — and after all, boys will be — um, that is to say — girls will be... Oh to hell with it — you work it out.



1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481-4100

MISALLIANCE AT MIDNIGHT

The only clear new fact to emerge from the policy declaration that was supposed to seal the merger between the Liberals and Social Democrats is that the leadership of both parties is now in doubt. After a bruising 36 hours of semi-public negotiation extraordinary even by the standards of Alliance politics — both Mr Steel and Mr Maclean were under intense attack from their own sides and were plainly exhausted by the prospect of going on.

The most obvious hostility to the deal comes from Liberals who are, not surprisingly, horrified by the commitment to Trident, nuclear power, and many other Liberal *l'es* *noires* besides. But there was also last night resentment from Social Democrats and the followers of David Owen were quick to denounce Mr Maclean's achievement as being much too right-wing. Nothing remains except a personal declaration by two leaders whose authority to lead is all but shattered.

The document is an absurd mixture of generality and unresearched detail — more like the notes of a midnight conversation than a serious political statement. It would be hard to think of a surer way of not winning support than by announcing as part of grand policy at this stage of a parliament the intention to work on measures for putting VAT on children's clothes and food and the phasing out of mortgage tax relief.

It is true that there is no commitment except to work on these things. Yet the document raises unpopular matters unnecessarily before the work on the proposals is done, before the new party knows whether it wants them and before a persuasive dialogue with public opinion.

That is simply naive politics, unless it hides a secret urge to drive some Liberals out. An astonishing amount of its thinking is of a kind that might have been expected to come straight from the sort of radicalism associated with Dr Owen and offensive to grassroots Liberals.

Some of it is good sense. There is, for instance an unambiguous commitment to the Western alliance, and to Trident. A promised total reform of the social security system,

rightly described as "a bureaucratic nightmare," so as to redirect money to the genuine poor, is also sensible. So is a clearer acceptance of the role for civil nuclear power. But such detail — even down to talk about company cars — is not the stuff to launch a new party.

The whole emphasis is Social Democratic and provocative to Liberals. A policy declaration described by that archtypical Liberal, Mr Des Wilson, as "barely literate" and "politically inept" is ominous.

Mr Wilson's particular brand of welfarism and his vision of all human life as a vast congeries of minority causes are not to everyone's taste. None the less, he stands for something deep in the heart of the Liberal Party and that something Mr David Steel desperately needs to keep: its grassroots, beards, sandals, pavement politics and all. Mr Steel may long to lead a Social Democratic Party but these are the people who have sustained him these many years and he cannot afford to dispense with them.

One might suppose that this bizarre policy declaration, with its notable Owenite flavour, is specially designed to rid Mr Steel of the Green-tinted unilateralist Liberals who have so plagued him during his leadership. But that is not practical politics.

Or, it might be said that Mr Steel can risk defections because rebellious Liberals have nowhere to go. But there are at least enough of them to form a party of their own analogous to Dr Owen's personal SDP. In that event, the merger, which is being sought because the mergerists have said that there is no room for the four political parties which Dr Owen wanted, might even have the consequence of producing five. It is more likely, however, that the Liberals will stay together and that it will be Mr Steel who proves to have no destination.

It is hard to take it all seriously. A new party should come into being because it has a clear cause and genuinely shared attitudes which it can trumpet abroad. That is what the merger lacks. These are not two parties becoming one because they are agreed on what they want to do. They are trying and failing to agree on what to say in order to become one for the sake of it.

MR BAKER'S TIGER

Something curious is surely happening in the education world when the big teachers' unions and the Labour Party join Mr Kenneth Baker in welcoming a report that shows exactly how children can be tested at the ages of seven, 11, 14 and 16. For the proposals are the lynch pin of Government's plans for reforming schools, plans that continue to be damned at every opportunity by all sides of the education establishment.

The report, by a task group headed by Professor Paul Black, outlines a radical new system of national assessment which would place 80 per cent of pupils at the four key ages on one of 10 ascending levels of achievement. Most significantly, it would enable parents of 11 and 14-year-olds to discover how their children were doing in relation to the national average, to others in their class, to others of the same age in neighbouring schools, and to others in the same and neighbouring local education authorities.

Individual pupils' results would naturally be confidential between their parents and the school but the aggregated results after the age of seven would be public property. Parents, employers and anyone else who was interested would be able to compare the performance of classes, teachers, schools and local authorities.

The results would not be drained of all meaning by being "weighted" for socio-economic factors as they are currently, for example, by the Inner London Education Authority in its annual secondary school league table. They would, however, be accompanied by a statement drawing attention to the strong statistical connection between pupils' attainments and their home background.

That should avoid the kind of simplistic conclusions which tend to be drawn from, for example, the crude league table given in a Parliamentary answer on Tuesday showing how much local authorities spend per secondary pupil in relation to the proportion of their school leavers who pass five or more O levels. That Harrow's results are four times better than Barking's for an extra £70 a head reveals very little more than that middle-class children

tend to do rather better at school than working-class children.

Professor Black's scheme is more sophisticated. It will measure pupils' knowledge, skill and understanding across the whole range of the national curriculum by standardized tests set outside the school. The 10 levels at which pupils are to be graded will allow for the normal range of attainment at each of the key ages. Pupils will not be competing against each other but against an objective test of what, given the right teaching and encouragement, they should be able to do.

The system will enable teachers and parents to identify from the age of seven those who need help because they are falling behind and those who need help to stay ahead. Never again will teachers be able to fob off parents who want to know how their children are doing with a jumble of jargon and amodine assurances.

In other words, Professor Black's elegant and sensitive system meets every criterion the Government could have wished. Mr Baker, quite contrary to the teaching unions' assertion that he is embarrassed and discomfited, has let it be known that he is positively delighted. Could it be, then, that the unions and their allies fell into the trap of believing their own propaganda?

Could it be that they believed, as they so often proclaimed and as Mr Baker has often denied, that the Government really intended to impose simple, menacing pass-fail tests of the 11-plus variety? In which case, can we now look forward to a period of quiet contemplation, followed perhaps by general recantation?

It would be a blessing if it were so for there will soon be much to be done. When Professor Black's system begins to be introduced in five years' time it will reveal as never before the real degree of under-achievement in our schools. Parents and others will clamour for action to remedy it. They will demand better teaching. They may want their children to be streamed by ability. They may even want the compulsory summer schools that Sir Rhodes Boyson suggested at the weekend. A national system of assessment is only the start of it. The Government, whether it knows it or not, has a tiger by the tail.

MORALS AND MAJORITIES

The annual survey of national habits and attitudes published today by the Government Statistical Service paints, on the face of it, a dire picture of national depravity. Britain is a nation of pleasure-seekers, fleeing from the churches to the television and the gambling machine.

Its citizens hold the marriage bond in increasing contempt and produce an unprecedented number of illegitimate children. They show scant respect for the law and expend much energy in the commission of crime. It may seem something of a paradox that a country whose politics are presided over by Mrs Thatcher, with her articulate devotion to Victorian values, should display so many of the characteristics traditionally, though inaccurately, attributed to Sodom and Gomorrah.

The survey, however, presents an even more striking paradox. Much evidence from opinion polls suggests that public attitudes to personal morality are becoming increasingly conservative. The young tend to blame their parents for having brought them up too permissively; scourges such as Aids are regarded as the natural consequences of sexual licence; there is said to be a demand for more authoritative leadership from the churches. Yet the daily round of fornication and self-indulgence continues unabated. The authors of the survey say that they will try to explain this oddity next year. Let us not wait for that.

This contrast between belief and behaviour is a hallmark of most civilizations and most periods of history. It was particularly conspicuous during the Victorian era to which Mrs Thatcher is so devoted. It is a commonplace of much political philosophy that free-born men and women may yearn to be rid of the responsibilities which their freedom imposes. The plaintive cry of the tobacco addict, "If only they would make smoking illegal", is quite often heard though, to judge from what the survey reveals about the nation's respect for law, the expedient might prove less than decisive.

Moreover, many of the findings of this investigation are open to different interpretations. The illegitimacy rate, it is true, is unprecedentedly high, but to an increasing extent illegitimate children are registered by both parents. This could mean that these children are the products of relatively stable relationships.

Divorce continues to flourish. But some may ask whether there is much moral superiority in a relationship so unstable as present-day marriage over the informal partnerships to which the young seem increasingly inclined. As for the nation's other "failings", gambling, when practised with moderation, is not universally regarded as vicious, while television is not necessarily corrupt. Perhaps we are not quite such a bad lot as statisticians make us appear.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tenants' duty to reduce fire risks

From the Chairman of Plymouth Housing Committee

Sir, In spite of the Government announcement today (January 12) banning combustible foam, I and colleagues who have taken a close interest in the problems of domestic fires feel that several key points arise which need wider publicity.

Our experience is that a high percentage of tenants completely fail to insure their own property and in consequence, after a fire or flood, rely heavily on society at large for replacement furniture and clothing.

The city of Plymouth has not yet succeeded, in spite of repeated public statements and advice in our annual tenants' handbook, in raising the proportion of insured tenants to any measurable extent. It therefore remains vital that councils and elected councillors combine to advise all householders, owners or tenants, to ensure that they have adequate home-contents insurance.

Plymouth has made available to as many as have called for a copy the newly produced and quite excellent Home Office guide to fire extinguishers. It should be readily available in every library, Citizens' Advice Bureau and housing office in the land.

But sadly fires still happen. Life still gets taken. The time therefore seems ripe for another national fire precautions campaign, but this time targeted towards tenants rather than blanket coverage of all householders. The reasoning is simply that evidence points to tenants being more at risk because of social factors.

Finally, there must be a strong case for DESS officers saying to the making calls on the new social fund after fire or flood, "Did you make provision to protect yourself — if not, why not?" The DESS could surely, in association with the British insurance industry, promote low-cost domestic contents insurance schemes to help those who might otherwise neglect, either through apathy or

uncertainty, to insure their personal property.

Yours sincerely,
TOM JONES (Chairman, Plymouth Housing Committee),
11 Frensham Gardens,
Glenhagh, Plymouth, Devon.

From Mrs Sue Steane
Sir, We welcome any legislation to make furniture safer (report, January 12). Unfortunately the CMHR (combustion modified high resistance) foam we will be required to use is not yet available in the quality in which we would require it.

Manufacturers have used the cheaper foams because there has been no suitable alternative at a price the majority of the public can afford.

We have the same conundrum: there is no economic substitute for synthetic materials — natural padding is more expensive and labour costs higher. As so often happens, the better-off purchaser will still have the freedom to buy comfortable durable upholstery, but what about the less well off? What do they sit on?

Our foam supplier has quoted a guessimate extra cost per fire-resistant cushion of £4.55. On the average three-piece suite this means an extra cost to the manufacturer of £40-£50 per suite (assuming the back cushions are also foam). This cost would extrapolate out to a retail figure of an extra £160-£200 for cushions alone from the purchaser's point of view.

In the case of our own company, the basic cost price of materials (including fire-resistant foam) without any covering material would not be much less to us than £269.95, the present average retail price of a cheap sofa, and we find the multiples will generally not stock our furniture because, although they appreciate the quality, they inform us that the public will not pay our price. CMHR foam would add a further 20-30 per cent to retail costs.

Yours faithfully,
SUE STEANE, Sales Director,
Singer Melior Design Ltd,
Unit 1, Hampton Farm Industrial Estate,
Hampton Road West,
Feltham, Middlesex.

Israel and Arabs

From Mr Sidney Sugarman

Sir, After the torrent of cant and misguided waffle which readers and viewers have been enduring since Mr Mellor revealed Gaza camp conditions which have existed for only 40 years, how refreshing it is to have your concise clarification (leading article, January 9), complete in less than four lines, of Israel's plight.

It is undeniably true that, as you say, At present Israel can neither assimilate nor enfranchise the population of the territories nor let it go for fear of creating moral dangers to that state, but this need not mean that there is no answer to the problem.

The geo-political reasons for Israel's inability to agree to independent Arab territories between the Jordan and the Mediterranean must be immediately obvious to anyone who can read a map, while the demographic threat which you later mention is

sufficient explanation of Israel's unwillingness to assimilate vast numbers of Arabs.

The answer, I suggest, may be found in the creation of two autonomous Arab cantons — one for Judea and Samaria (the "West Bank") the other in the Gaza Strip. They could enjoy full control of all their own affairs — administration, education, internal economy, policing etc, but without military forces to pose any threat to neighbouring areas.

This would enable Israel to withdraw her troops and her occupying administration, satisfying in one stroke all those Israelis (probably in the majority) who have no desire to rule Arabs and the Arabs who are clamouring for the end of the Israeli tenure.

Yours faithfully,
S. SUGARMAN,
8 Airbury Court,
5 Wilderton Road,
Branksome Park,
Poole, Dorset.
January 9.

Rolling in the aisles

From the Chancellor of Hereford

Sir, Tony Hodges (report, January 9) is incorrect in supposing that St Peter's Church, West Tytherley, has the only working barrel organ in a church in Britain.

During the three years that I have been working in the Diocese of Hereford I have found myself singing hymns to the accompaniment of a barrel organ at Holy Trinity, Bosbury, and at St Mary's, Llanfairwaterline.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN TILLER,
The Canon's House,
3 St John Street,
Hereford.
January 11.

From Mr M. H. Davies
Sir, My wife and I paid a visit to St Botolph's Church, Wardley, Leicestershire, on January 9 and they also have a small barrel organ at the west end of the church. It certainly works, because I turned the handle!

Yours faithfully,
M. H. DAVIES,
Hendon Cottage,
Markwick Lane,
Loxhill,
Godalming, Surrey.

Bank and inner city

From the Deputy Chairman and Managing Director of Barclays Bank

Sir, I was saddened by David Walker's article, "Faith in the US cities" (January 7), not so much because it was factually incorrect about Barclays but because it displayed such little understanding of the very real role that this bank plays in the refurbishment of our inner cities.

Our commitment comes in a number of forms, but most notably in the provision of cash or beneficial loans and human resources. In 1988 alone Barclays' support for UK inner-city regeneration programmes amounts to £12 million, of which £1 million will be straight cash. In Liverpool and Birmingham — areas chosen apparently at random by Mr Walker — Barclays is involved in current and long-term projects totalling over £4.25 million over the next few years.

In human terms 50 managers

and staff of the bank, whose salaries continue to be paid by Barclays, have been seconded full-time either to head or to help run development schemes. As a member of both the Percut Club and Business in the Community, Barclays is the third largest corporate giver in the UK.

Yours sincerely,
P. E. LESLIE,
Deputy Chairman and Managing Director,
Barclays Bank,
54 Lombard Street, EC3.
January 7.

Forms of address

From Lord Erroll of Hale
Sir, As a supplement to Viscount Hampden's list of addresses (January 1) may I offer the favourite from my own collection — a letter to me which began, "Dear Lord OF".
Yours sincerely,
ERROLL OF HALE,
Flat One,
6 Hyde Park Gardens, W2.
January 1.

Reform of Official Secrets Act

From the General Secretary of the Association of First Division Civil Servants

Sir, Bernard Levin claims (January 11) that the Civil Service is determined that Richard Shepherd's Bill to reform the Official Secrets Act should not pass. I wonder on what grounds he makes that assumption.

Of course senior Civil Servants cannot publicly make known their personal views. Their union, the FCA, however, which represents grades up to and including permanent secretary, not only supports the Shepherd Bill but would go further. We have come to the conclusion that there is only one way to remove the unnecessary barriers of secrecy which ministers of all political persuasions will be tempted to retain in order to prevent the release of politically embarrassing information. This is through a freedom of information Act.

In the meantime we wish Mr Shepherd luck on Friday and urge Mr Levin to concentrate his fire on the politicians in government, who are the real opponents of the public's right to know.
Yours faithfully,
JOHN WARD, General Secretary,
Association of First Division Civil Servants (FCA),
2 Caxton Street, SW1.
January 6.

From Mr Des Wilson
Sir, Lord Searson's letter (January 7) and Bernard Levin's remarkable article are just two of the many recent expressions of deep concern about the Prime Minister's obduracy on issues concerned with secrecy.

The real tragedy of the three-line whip and the inevitable refusal of a second reading for Richard Shepherd's private members' Bill to reform section 2 of the Official Secrets Act is not the

Maximum tax yield

From Sir Emmanuel Kaye

Sir, In his letter (December 29) Mr Donald Keating, QC, argues that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should retain 60 per cent as a top marginal rate of income tax, in order that the Government should have more revenue to spend on the National Health Service.

There is, however, a serious fallacy in this reasoning. As Professor Lawrence Lindsey of Harvard has shown, (*It Pays to Cut Taxes*, Adam Smith Institute, 1986) reducing high top rates of income tax increases revenue, not reduces it; the maximum income tax yield would be with a top rate of around 41 per cent.

Professor Lindsey has suggested that in the US context there is no particular virtue in going for the maximum yield because Congress would only spend it. He was therefore a supporter of President Reagan's objective of a top rate of federal income tax of 28 per cent, which comes into force this year (plus 5 per cent net local tax — or 33 per cent in all), which compares with our 60 per cent rate plus the national insurance charge, plus local rates.

In the British context the maximum yield of tax is no doubt important, as must also be our having a competitive tax structure, so that we are able to retain our brightest inventors, researchers and scientists and attract overseas ones to come here.

It may have escaped Mr Keating's notice that even the Labour Government in Australia, with a basic rate of income tax of 29 per cent, has cut the top rate there to 49 per cent, and the Labour Government in New Zealand, with a basic rate of 30 per cent, has cut the top rate to 48 per cent.

Yours sincerely,
EMMANUEL KAYE, Chairman,
Lansing-Bagnall Ltd,
Kingsclere Road,
Basingstoke,
Hampshire.
January 12.

Suitable response?

From Mr Harold Kinsledge

Sir, Mr Henry Smith (January 8) is doubtless right about when and where to button or unbutton. Samuel Pepys was made a present of one on November 1, 1663, and on October 15, 1666, King Charles II had a new vest which Pepys described as "a long cassocke close to the body" and John Evelyn as "after the Persian mode with a girdle".

The two garments are historically clearly quite different, and an understatement is different again; yet tailors insist on calling a waistcoat a vest. I wonder why?

Yours faithfully,
H. FASSNIDGE,
8 St Margaret's Hill,
Bradford on Avon,
Wiltshire.
January 8.

Honours uneven

From Father G. P. M. Adams

Sir, I am happy to inform you that you can choose a charity, to which your correspondent Mr G. G. Campbell (January 8) must pay his wages of £100. In the 1988 edition of *Whitaker's Almanack* the Foreign and Commonwealth Office lists 28 senior officials who between them are laden with the following honours: one GCMG, two KCMGs, one KBE, 23 CMGs, one CVO, one LVO and one MVO.

I remain, yours honourably,
GRAHAM P. M. ADAMS,
7 Sutton Close,
Aston-le-Walls,
Davenport,
Northamptonshire.
January 8.

defeat of the Bill, but the most emphatic denial yet of an opportunity for proper debate in the proper place of the issue it raises.

For the past four years we have campaigned for a compromise between the proper protection of information where secrecy is clearly justified and far greater availability of the remainder. At no point has the size and substance of our support or the balanced nature of our case been rewarded by a serious audience in government.

When it comes to this issue, there is no difference between the citizen advocates and the Commons. Our views are to be equally unheard.

Yours,
DES WILSON, Chairman,
Campaign for Freedom of Information,
3 Endsleigh Street, WC1.
January 11.

ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 14 1886

The Education Act 1870 laid down the principle of elementary education for all, but it was not until 1880, six years before the letter reproduced below appeared, that it had become compulsory.

THE ELEMENTARY EDUCATION OF GIRLS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir, Will you allow me, through your columns, to invite the general attention to an error which I think exists in the present Educational Code, by which I think great opportunities of good are lost, and the British taxpayer is heavily mulcted in that which profits no one, while the future mothers and housewives of England leave school, where their best and brightest years are spent, with a smattering of useless knowledge, to be immediately forgotten?

Girls in elementary schools in 1884, of an age to come under consideration in the case of a will, refer to the number of a million and a quarter. And now to my complaint. A grant is given on examination in class subjects, amounting to 1s. if the report is "fair," and 2s. if good, for each class subject, but Note V. proceeds to say with reference to these class subjects that if one subject only is taken, it must be English for both boys and girls. This means to say that no girl's school may devote itself to very good needlework unless it first studies English, which comprises the repetition of poetry in the majority of schools, united in the following standards to the progressive study of grammar. I ask you, Sir, whether this is a national disposal of the money of the British taxpayer. If the girl's school supports the difficulties of grammar, it may then add to its pursuits the special study of needlework, but the inexorable grammar must come first. I hold that reading, writing, and arithmetic may be useful to a girl, but that without a good knowledge of needlework she is a miserable creature. In the highest class every girl is taught needlework as a necessary part of education; though she may not continuously practise it, our gracious Queen understands the use of the needle; and there is no woman whose fingers are not the better adapted to be useful in sickness and to be helpful in a thousand little ways, both to rich and poor, by the art of sewing in needlework. Picture to yourself some cottage home where may sit the over-worked mother of five or six children. The boy of 14 will soon come in from work with a great hole in the elbow of his jacket; the three next, say, are at school that sturdy weaver on the floor has no toys, but he has found a hole in his frock, and is amusing himself thoroughly by passing a stick from the fire through it: that healthy infant laid down in the cradle is not quiet (for what healthy child is quiet?), but is continuously kicking his feet together, to the amputation of his woven boots. Does this happen once in 365 days? No, and for 318 days the mother should sit with her needle threaded, and with the help of the eldest girl, who is expected home from school, meet the incessant sewing which a young family in every rank of life entails. A sewing machine, even if she could afford one, may make but it cannot mend or adapt old clothes to new purposes. The girl returns. She can speak of Shakespeare and the musical glasses, it is true for she has been studying analysis, and her grateful country will remunerate her teachers for teaching her singing; but, as out of the 168 hours of which our week is composed only four must be given to needlework, her clumsy fingers are ill-prepared to meet the cutting out, the making and mending, which are loudly called for...

Can this be avoided? Can we do anything to help our poor girls to help themselves?

Let us away with the predicate, the possessive pronoun, the copulative conjunction, and let us ask our rulers to allow needlework to have the first chance, and let grammar take a second place...

I beg to subscribe myself, Sir, your humble servant,

CAROLINE A. LEIGH,
Stansleigh Abbey, Jan. 11.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK
January 13: The Duke of Edinburgh, President of World Wide Fund for Nature International, this evening attended a dinner for the International Council for Bird Preservation at St John's College, Cambridge.

His Royal Highness was received by the Chairman, International Council for Bird Preservation Achievement Board (His Royal Highness Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands) and the President of the College (Dr J H Garing).

The Lord Buxton was in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 13: The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, this morning attended the launch of the Union of Communication Workers' Appeal at Howick Place, London SW1.

Her Royal Highness, President, Royal Yachting Association, later visited Earl Court International Boat Show.

The Princess Royal, Chancellor, University of London, this afternoon presided at the University Presentation Ceremony at the Royal Albert Hall and was received by the Vice-Chancellor of the University (the Lord Flowers).

Her Royal Highness, President, Save the Children Fund, this evening visited the "Childhood Exhibition" and attended a reception at Sotheby's Galleries, New Bond Street, London W1.

The Princess Royal was received by the Chairman of the Company (the Earl of Gowrie).

Thanksgiving Ceremony

A thanksgiving ceremony for the life of Jacqueline du Pré will be held on January 26, her birthday, at Central Hall, Westminster, SW1, at 2 pm. The public is welcome and no ticket applications are necessary.

Christening

The infant son of Mr and Mrs Jarrah Norman, christened Benjamin Jarrah by Father Michael Ware in Westminster Cathedral on Saturday, January 2, 1988. The godparents are Mr Christopher Murray Wolfe and Miss Joanna Thomas.

RNVR Yacht Club

At a general meeting of the RNVR Yacht Club on January 12, 1988, the following were elected Flag Officers for the ensuing year: Commodore, Mr W. Ian Dickinson; Vice-Commodore, Commander Gavin C.M. Dunbar, RNVR; Rear Commodore, Mr Jack S. Grant.

Birthdays today

Captain Alastair Aird, royal equerry, 57; Professor Sir Melville Arnold, cardiologist, 79; Mr Peter Barkworth, actor, 59; Mr Richard Briers, actor, 58; Baroness Brooke of Stratford, 80; Lord Catto, 65; Miss Faye Dunaway, actress, 47; Miss Marina Giedud, ballerina, 43; Miss Andrea Grenfell, former managing director, Glemby International, 48; Sir Alan Hoole, former president, Law Society, 64; Professor Sir Hans Kornberg, biochemist, 60; Mr Warren Mitchell, actor, 62; Mr Trevor Nunn, theatre director, 48; Sir Neil Pritchard, diplomat, 77; Mr C.R. Reeves, banker, 32.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Henri Fantin-Latour, painter, Grenoble, 1836; Pierre Loti, novelist, Rochefort, 1850; Albert Schweitzer, doctor, missionary, and musician, Nobel Peace laureate 1952, Kayserberg, France, 1875; John Dos Passos, novelist, Chicago, 1896.

DEATHS: Edmond Halley, astronomer, London, 1742; Jean Ingles, painter, 1867; Lewis Carroll, Guildford, 1898; Humphrey Bogart, Hollywood, 1957; Peter Finch, Los Angeles, 1977.

First demonstration of Graham Bell's telephone at Queen Victoria at Osborne House, Isle of Wight, 1876.

The Hon Mrs Legge-Bourke

is in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
January 13: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, on behalf of The Queen, today presented a new Standard to Royal Air Force 617 Squadron at RAF Marham, Norfolk.

Ruth, Lady Fermoy and Captain Niall Hall were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 13: The Prince of Wales, Honorary Air Commodore, Royal Air Force Brackley, this morning at Kensington Palace presented The Prince of Wales' Trophy for 1987 to Squadron Leader W R Lewis, RAF.

His Royal Highness afterwards at Kensington Palace received Mr John Campbell.

The Prince of Wales subsequently received Mr Roy Gibson.

His Royal Highness this afternoon at Kensington Palace received Mr J P B Hadfield, Trafford Park Development Corporation.

The Princess of Wales, Patron, Help the Aged, this evening attended a performance of "Taking Steps" by London City Ballet in aid of the charity at the British Petroleum Theatre, Britannia House, Moor Lane, London EC2.

Viscount Camperdown and Commander Richard Aylard, RN were in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE, RICHMOND PARK
January 13: Princess Alexandra and the Hon Angus Ogilvy were present this evening at a gala reception of "Save the Pacific" in aid of the Royal Hospital and Home, Putney, at the Prince of Wales Theatre, London, W1.

Mrs Peter Afia was in attendance.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Kent will visit the Great Engineers Exhibition at the Royal College of Art at 2.30, and, as Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, will attend a reception for senior representatives of British industry and commerce at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office at 3.00. Prince Michael of Kent will attend a luncheon given by the Australian High Commissioner at Hyde Park Gate at 12.45, prior to his visit to Australia as part of the bicentenary celebrations.

Luncheons

HM Government Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host at a luncheon held yesterday at Lancaster House in honour of Mr Abdul Magid Osman, Minister of Finance of Mozambique. Foreign Press Association in London The Prime Minister was the guest of honour at a luncheon given by the Foreign Press Association in London yesterday at the Savoy Hotel. Mr Ali Bahajoub, president, was the host.

London International Boat Show
Mr David Oliver May, Chairman of National Boat Show, hosted a luncheon held on Tuesday at the London International Boat Show at Earls Court. Among the guests were The Countess of Arran, Mr John Wakeham, MP, Lord Montagu of Beaulieu and Prince Nicholas von Preussan.

Valentine Ball

The Valentine Ball will be held in the Albert Hall on Friday, February 12, 1988. Dancing will be to the Jive, Dick Laurie, Juliana's and Joffin's with two casinos and the trumpeters of the Household Cavalry. Invitations and 27 tickets are available from Mr Oliver Baxter at 01-931 8849.

Memorial Service

Dr R.L.T. Cromartie A service of thanksgiving for the life of Dr Ian Cameron was held yesterday at Holy Trinity Church, Geneva, Switzerland. The Rev Mervyn Puleston officiated and gave an address. Mr J.S. Chick, HM Consul-General in Geneva, read the lesson. HM Ambassador to Switzerland and Mrs J.R. Rich were among those present.

Science report

Sheep may now safely graze
By Andrew Wiseman

The cause of a mystery illness that has been plaguing cattle and sheep grazing in the foothills of the Bavarian Alps for 20 years, has been identified in a remarkable piece of scientific detective work.

Professor Hermann Zucker and colleagues at the Institute of Animal Physiology, Munich University, discovered that the animals had been debilitated by vitamin D₃ (cholecalciferol) poisoning as a result of eating yellow oat grass (*Trisetum flavescens*).

It was in the sixties that the outward symptoms of the disease, emaciation and difficulties in moving and standing, were first noticed. Post mortems carried out on afflicted animals established that they had a pronounced calcification of blood vessels and internal organs, particularly the kidneys and lungs. Suspicion fell on their diet.

To get at the truth, researchers fed sheep with selective grasses, clover and herbs from typical pastures and found that calcification only affected animals which ate grass. The next step was to

ascertain which grass was the culprit.

As cocks foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and yellow oat grass were found to be most widespread in the grazing lands, rabbits were put on a diet of either of these grasses. Subsequent tests revealed that only those eating yellow oat grass, one of the most valuable fodder crops, found at heights between 500 and 1200 metres - became ill and suffered from tail-tale hardening of tissues.

Further experiments led researchers to the conclusion that the animals were being poisoned by vitamin D₃ (cholecalciferol). Gas chromatography and mass spectrometry tests confirmed that yellow oat grass contained this vitamin.

This raised another question: how did the plant synthesise it? In humans and animals it is put together in the skin under the influence of ultra violet light from a substance called Provitamin D₃. To establish whether the same process occurred in cocks foot, the researchers sowed its seeds in a room from which

Forthcoming marriages

Mr N.J. Troop and Miss L. Asquith
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Robert Troop, of Barnes, London, and Lucy, elder daughter of the Hon Lady and Mrs Asquith, of Dulwich, London.

Mr D.F. Le Quessne and Miss K.A. Bell
The engagement is announced between David, son of Sir Martin and Lady Le Quessne, of Beau Desert, St Saviour, Jersey, and Kathryn Ann, daughter of the late Mr W.R. Bell and of Mrs Bell, of St Helens, Merseyside.

Mr J.A.C. Cordai and Miss T.J. Law
The engagement is announced between Justin, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Ronald Cordai, of Prince's Gate Court, SW7, and Tracy, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Raymond Law, of Saffron Walden, Essex.

Mr R.D. Cornie and Miss E.J. Craig
The engagement is announced between Robert, youngest son of the late Mr J.D. Cornie and of Mrs M.M.E. Cornie, of White Colne, and Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Wing Commander and Mrs J.M. Craig, of East Linton, East Lothian.

Mr S.M.G. Drummond-Brady and Miss N.S. Fletcher
The engagement is announced between Simon, elder son of Major and Mrs Michael Drummond-Brady, of Keepers Lodge, Great Chart, Kent, and Nicky, elder daughter of the late Peter Fletcher and Mrs Fletcher, of St John's Wood, London.

Mr R.C. Irving and Miss J.C. Metcalley
The engagement is announced between Rupert, eldest son of Commodore R.A.S. Irving, RN, (ret), and Mrs E.H. Irving, of Welling, near Bath, Avon, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.C. Metcalley, of Buckland, Surrey.

Mr A.M. Piper and Miss R.H. Bayley
The engagement is announced between Adam Mark, youngest son of Wing Commander G.R. Piper, OBE, RAF, (ret), and Mrs G. Bayley, of Abbot's Ripton, Cambridgeshire, and Rachel Helena, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.F.L. Bayley, of Wittersham, Kent.

Mr F.D.P. Robinson and Miss M. Bessell
The engagement is announced between Fred, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Robinson, of Stones Farm, Wootton, Basingstoke, Hampshire, and Diana, only daughter of Mr Edward Farquhar, of Twickenham, Middlesex, and Mrs Peter Thellusson, of The Manor House, Altonfield, Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

Mr N.E.J. Barrington-Fuller and Miss J.L. Pocock
The engagement is announced between Nigel, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Robert Barrington-Fuller, of Tending, Colchester, Essex, and Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Pocock, of Etchingham, Folkestone, Kent.

Mr P.M. Small and Miss A.M. Whitworth
The engagement is announced between Peter, younger son of the late Mr and Mrs Raymond Small, of Stirling, and Anna, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Whitworth, of Farley Chamberlayne, Hampshire.

Mr B.J. Isaacson and Miss J.A. Jaffa
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Dr S. Lewandowsky and Miss J.V. Bainbridge
The engagement is announced between Stephan, elder son of Mrs Lewandowsky, of West Germany, and Vivian, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Bainbridge, of Australia.

Mr P.H.J. Lovell and Miss N.K. Fazakerley
The engagement is announced between Peter Henry James, only son of Mr and Mrs E.H. Lovell, of London, SW12, and Nicola Kate, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Fazakerley, of London, SW6.

Mr D.A. Metter and Miss J.A. Lipton
The engagement is announced between David Antony, son of Mr and Mrs William Metter, of Johannesburg, and Jane Alison, daughter of Mr Gerald Lipton, and Mrs Shirley Lipton, of London.

Mr N.D. Morant and Miss D.S. Farquhar
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, youngest son of Major and Mrs G.C.H. Morant, of Pigeon Farm, Hatherden, Andover, Hampshire, and Diana, only daughter of Mr Edward Farquhar, of Twickenham, Middlesex, and Mrs Peter Thellusson, of The Manor House, Altonfield, Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

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OBITUARY

MR CHIANG CHING-KUO

President of a prosperous Taiwan

Mr Chiang Ching-kuo, President of Taiwan, died yesterday, at the age of 77.

He is remembered as a tough politician-administrator - manipulative, bullying and cajoling - who also had the good fortune to preside over an economic miracle owed as much to the intrinsic vitality of the people as to their political leadership. It was a miracle which Chiang encouraged through more liberal trade, social and political reforms, and which today sees Taiwan as an economic powerhouse.

Until he was 68, he lived under the shadow of his autocratic father, General Chiang Kai-shek, and only subsequently revealed a disposition to reform.

He ascended to the Presidency in 1978. From this supreme position he gradually relaxed some of his father's policies, promoting to office younger men who had been born in Taiwan; loosening the Party's grip on political and intellectual life; extending democracy; and further liberalizing the economy.

He never, however, gave up the claim to mainland sovereignty over the People's Republic of China; and never, as far as is known for certain, parleyed with his old Communist foes there.

Chiang Ching-kuo was born at Fengchia, in Chekiang province, on March 18, 1910, first son of the Chiang Kai-shek. His mother was the Generalissimo's first wife, a co-villager named Mao. Since his father had no children by his subsequent wife, Madame Soong May-ling, Chiang Ching-kuo remained his father's political heir.

Chiang lived with his paternal grandmother until the age of 10 and then was sent to schools in Shanghai and Peking. In 1925, a diffident teenager, he was sent to Moscow - then his father's ally - to learn military science and engineering at Sun Yat-sen University. He was accused of trouble-making there, but was cleared after an inquiry by the future Communist Premier, Chou En-lai.

After graduating, he was held, almost as a hostage, working in a factory, on a farm, and in a gold mine. He met a Russian engineer who nursed him back to health from a serious illness. They were married in 1935, and she bore his first son in Moscow.



Only in 1937, after thirteen years' absence, did he return to China, fluent in Russian and a convinced anti-Communist.

He rose quickly in the Chinese army in the war of resistance against Japan, doing notable service at the battle of De'an in October, 1938. He also won civilian posts, as administrative commissioner and magistrate.

But his Russian connections were made use of in December, 1945, when his father sent him to Moscow to negotiate with Stalin over the status of Mongolia; the Soviet withdrawal from Manchuria; the internationalization of Dalian; the Sino-Soviet railroad; and relations with the Chinese Communist Party.

He subsequently became foreign affairs commissioner for North East China, with the impossible brief of prising the Russian occupation forces loose without letting Mao Tse-tung's Chinese Communists take over.

One of his last duties on the mainland was as deputy economic adviser in Shanghai in 1948, trying to stem the rampant inflation, profiteering and black marketeering of those months before the Communist take-over. When he departed, he publicly apologised to the people of the city for not having done a better job.

When the withdrawal to Taiwan became inevitable in the face of Mao Tse-tung's communist forces, in 1949, Chiang was sent to the island to pave the way for his father.

He was given extraordinary powers for the purpose, assuming high posts in the

Party, the Minist of National Defence, at the National Security Council. From the 1950s, Chiang was effective master of the security police, the secret services and the political commissars like army.

The Generalissimo now spent much time in seclusion, letting it be known that he entrusted his son with responsibility. Thus did the young Chiang consolidate a formidable power base in the government, party, and army.

In the course of this he won a reputation for sharp temper and ruthlessness. Dr Wu Kuo-chen, respected Governor of Taiwan province from 1949 to 1953, accused him of having "no understanding whatsoever of modern democratic government", attributing his authoritarianism to his Russian training.

Chiang himself boasted of having broken up more than 500 separate Communist conspiracies over a three-to-four-year period, as a result of which some 2,500 people were probably executed.

Chiang contributed substantially to the economic miracle by which Taiwan has sustained an unprecedented average growth of almost 9 per cent a year in the 1970s and 1980s. Following an earlier visit to the United States, he introduced computerization into the army and streamlined the government administration to make it more efficient. He also lent his weight to the highly successful export-oriented economic policies of the technocrats advising his government.

In 1969 he was made Deputy Premier, and three years later Premier (President of the Executive Yuan). When Chiang Kai-shek died in 1975, he was succeeded by an interim President, C. K. Jen, but Chiang took control of the ruling Party and became President in 1978. He was again elected in 1984 to a further six-year term.

In his final years he suffered from diabetes and eye trouble, and he made his last public appearances in a wheelchair. But he remained alert, taking a keen interest in international affairs. Like his father, he had been converted to Methodism early in life.

He is survived by his Russian wife, who took the Chinese name Chiang Fang-liang, and by three sons and a daughter.

DR CONNIE MULDER

Dr Connie Mulder, who died in Johannesburg on January 12, at the age of 62, was seen by many as a future Prime Minister of South Africa, until his career was dramatically terminated by the exposure, in 1978, of his involvement in a secret pro-apartheid campaign.

The "Muldergate Scandal", as it became known, blew up when it was revealed that Mulder, as Minister of Information, had used millions of dollars of his department's funds to finance a pro-government newspaper, *The Citizen*, and to buy media sympathy for South Africa's apartheid policy abroad.

Though Mulder resolutely defended his actions, he resigned first as a Minister, next as leader of the National Party in the Transvaal, and, finally, as a Member of Parliament.

He had a rapid rise in the governing National Party. He came from the Transvaal, the main seat of Nationalist power; he had a physique which made him look like a Rugby forward - a recommendation in itself in that rugby-loving country; and in office he at first developed a personality which - though he was a hard-liner on most of his party's principles - enabled him to give the impression that he was less dogmatic and power-conscious than some of his Cabinet colleagues.

Cornelius Petrus Mulder was born at Warmbaths, Transvaal, on June 5, 1925. He took his BA at Potchefstroom University, and in 1957, after some years teaching, he took a doctorate in the department of Afrikaans/Nederlands at Witwatersrand University. While still a teacher he served on the city council at Randfontein, and was twice mayor.

He entered Parliament in 1958 as MP for Randfontein. In 1966 Dr Verwoerd, then Prime Minister, made him assistant information officer for the National Party, and the following year, with Mr Vorster now as Prime Minister, he became chief information officer.

From 1968 to 1972 he was Minister of Immigration, and from 1968 to 1974 he was Minister of Social Welfare and Pensions.

In 1972 he became Minister of the Interior, while retaining the Information portfolio. These two offices placed him in the middle of the political arena, the first notably when riots broke out among urban African and Coloured people in 1976. He used the second to project the Government's standpoint in countries which were increasingly sceptical

about South Africa's home policy, as a result of those riots.

His last Ministerial post was that of Minister of Plural Relations, handling the affairs of blacks. On taking office in 1978 he gave the never-to-be-redemmed pledge that would turn the black township of Soweto into the most beautiful city in Africa.

By the time the scandal burst over him, therefore, Mulder was one of South Africa's most powerful politicians, and his apparent to Vorster's position.

In June, 1978, his top civil servant, Dr Eschel Rhoodie, disclosed that the Information Department had been used to secret government funds to set up a newspaper, *The Citizen*, whose task was to counter the influence that the anti-apartheid *Rand Daily Mail* had among white South Africans. A considerable amount was being spent, too, Rhoodie claimed, in trying to get foreign governments to take a more sympathetic view of apartheid.

Resigning his office, Mulder claimed that he was not alone among ministers in knowing how his departments funds were being spent.

The Erasmus Commission

PROFESSOR F. J. FISHER

Professor Jack Fisher, Professor of Economic History at the London School of Economics from 1954 to 1975, died on January 7, at the age of 79.

Frederick Jack Fisher was born on July 22, 1908, and educated at Southend High School and at LSE, where he was pupil, and then a colleague, of

THE ARTS

Soup to nuts

The BBC may still not have succumbed completely to market forces, but as far as the making and selling of product is concerned, they certainly gave it to us last night, from the soup to the nuts.

First, *QED* in *Sheer Genius* (BBC1) told the intriguing tale of a Harvard botanist's long struggle to invent nylon, then the second part of *Campaign* (BBC2), Gerald Macdonald's entertaining, self-parodic soap melodrama about the advertising world, showed the agencies

TELEVISION

behind the big sell. Those of us without the gastronomic stamina to go from beginning to end were also helpfully told by the smooth, adroitly plotting and plotted against managing director of the ad agency, the meaning of "from the soup to the nuts".

Sheer Genius was more concerned with the soap, which involved Bruce Graham as the splendidly named inventor Wallace Carothers playing around with his chemistry set. When he did get to the nuts, and ladies' legs were blessed with his invention, they had to take down their stockings and get them recycled for the war effort.

Poor Wallace felt things were even more of a let down after his success and killed himself, but then, with his depression and hang-ups about women, he was pretty much what he was still in the soup.

Advertising, of course, deals with the nuts. *Campaign* did not let us down. Chocolate cereals, sun-tan cream, Scotch whisky, were among the products. But the most important of all was, as in *Don't Lure*, the recent play about advertising for the RSC, the Conservative Party.

Macdonald's creative concept was to alternate between sending it all up and overdoing with straight-faced soap melodrama spiced with moral points. The fabric of it, like a Carothers special, went through the wash without losing its slick, artificial, sheen.

Andrew Hislop

CINEMA

Fatal Attraction (18)
Plaza

No Way Out (15)
Odeon Leicester Square

Tough Guys Don't Dance (18)
Cannon Tottenham Court Road

The Glass Menagerie (PG)
Cannon Haymarket

In terms of the American box-office, *Fatal Attraction* was the phenomenon of 1987: by the end of the year, almost 120 million dollars had been grossed since the film's September release. I wish money had changed hands over a less shallow and unsavoury film, though as a slick crowd-pleaser there are points in its favour.

Leading characters are conventionally drawn but recognisably human: there are no furry aliens or pin-up robots anywhere. The plot springs from a common problem — the impromptu extra-marital affair that turns sour. The director, Adrian Lyne, gives us glossy images, hammer blows and flashy cuts, yet we never feel completely enthralled in a feature-length TV commercial, as we did with *9½ Weeks*. Small crumbs, perhaps, but they provide some comfort.

James Dearden originally devised his story for a British feature of 1979 called *Diversion*, but the material has been assiduously updated to suit contemporary Manhattan: America's newest confectionery fad, the Pudding Roll-Up, even gets a look-in. Michael Douglas plays a happily married attorney who enjoys a passionate weekend fling with a publishing executive while his wife and daughter are upcountry, scouting for a suburban retreat.

After one look at Glenn Close's gimlet eyes and rebarbative wardrobe, experienced audiences should sniff out a psychopath; but the penny only drops for Douglas when Close hounds him on the telephone after he calls off the affair. Physical harassment soon follows: the unbalanced lady pours acid over his car, stakes out their dream house in Westchester County, and does something horrible to the daughter's pet rabbit.

Once Dearden's plot reaches this



What do you mean, it's over? Glenn Close (left) gets the brush off from Michael Douglas but she won't go away.

Madly in love

stage, the film's effects broaden lamentably. A kitchen knife idling by the sink inevitably heralds a bloody attack a few frames away; and Lyne sets up the bathroom finale so laboriously that even a blind person could guess the outcome.

Characters are bull-dozed flat. The erring husband's moral responsibilities become swept under the carpet once Close slips into madness; and the interesting figure of the spurned lover turns into just another loony with a knife.

Fatal Attraction, finally, is an attraction to be resisted. No Way Out, another recent commercial hit, is much more decent and robust. At the root of the script lies Kenneth Fearing's thriller *The Big Clock*, atmospherically filmed by John Farrow in 1948. Characters and settings have all been upgraded.

Gene Hackman plays the big-wig in hot water, trying to cover up his accidental murder of his mistress. Previously, the character was a

cutthroat publishing mogul, portrayed with deadpan villainy by Charles Laughton. Now he is the American Secretary of Defence, no less, and the intrigue rumpuses through the labyrinthine corridors of the Pentagon.

Kevin Costner, fresh from his success in *The Untouchables*, takes Ray Milland's role as the uneasy hero — an employee ordered to track down the murderer when he himself seems the prime suspect; for he was the murdered girl's lover, too.

As before, the crux of the drama lies in Costner's double predicament. He must prevent the clues from mounting up in his direction while searching for information to prove Hackman's guilt.

The New Zealand director Roger Donaldson — on former ground here than in *The Bounty* — handles this part brilliantly. In *The Big Clock* the clues were stored on a bulletin board; now banks of computers analyze the corpse's stomach contents and building up Costner's

graphic image from a Polaroid negative.

Costner plays with a banked-down fire and athletic élan that light up the screen; you cannot take your eyes off him. Hackman is his dependable self, showier turns are provided by Will Patton as the Secretary's possessive sidekick, and Sean Young (the vivacious corpse).

The entertainment's major flaw is the ridiculous twist ending tacked on to Fearing's story; audiences will be tumbling out into Leicester Square scratching their heads with disbelief.

It is now 20 years since Norman Mailer first turned film director with *Beyond the Law* and other indulgent, slapdash, semi-improvised affairs, mostly suffered by campus audiences. Tough Guys Don't Dance, adapted from his own recent novel, is a different kettle of fish, aimed at the commercial market: Cannon Films supplied money, Ryan O'Neal and Isabella Rossellini the star power.

Yet, for all the conventional trappings and sleek visual surface, rough edges remain. The mood staggers from grisly farce to overblown melodrama and back, while the plot is a jumble of headless corpses, impenetrable intrigues and unbridled lusts. Some of the confusion is deliberate. Through genre parody, flickering moods and skewed characters, Mailer aims to capture what he calls the "strange and sinister fever" (running) loose in the pleasure-loving classes of America.

Ryan O'Neal is the dazed hero — a Cape Cod stumblebum whose mind blurs once his flighty wife takes off. O'Neal's portrayal is strongly naturalistic; around him Mailer throws a carnival of caricatures — snarling fathers, crooked police chiefs, highly-strung blondes, uninged Southern moneybags.

'After one look at Glenn Close's gimlet eyes, experienced audiences should sniff out a psychopath'

There is much to enjoy here and there: the grey landscapes of Provincetown; Mailer's dialogue, bouncing with exuberance. Yet we never care tuppence for the characters' fates; nothing builds, nothing holds. Pardonable errors, perhaps, in an esoteric diversion, but serious crimes in a thriller aiming to entice the crowds.

Alone among the week's new releases, *The Glass Menagerie* consciously hoists the flag of art. Paul Newman directs, but makes no appearance in this reverential version of Tennessee Williams' play, lifting three of its acting quartet from a much-acclaimed stage production.

Joanne Woodward is the nervous, nagging mother (played in Hollywood's previous version by a grievously miscast Gertrude Lawrence), Karen Allen is the son's estranged daughter steadily retreating into a private fantasy world. John Malkovich, the production's newcomer, portrays the son, struggling to break free from a dead-end life. Performances are extremely polished and Michael Ballhaus — once Fassbinder's cameraman — brings constant variety to the cramped, faded apartment setting.

It is difficult to get excited, though, about the genteel end-product. Newman has declared that his cast and crew "wanted to give the best rendering of a Tennessee work ever put on film". Admirable sentiments, of course, but you can love a thing to death.

Geoff Brown

CONCERTS

Dismal show

Michael Nyman
Band
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Michael Nyman is a successful man. He is in much demand to write music for films, television shows and commercials.

As this Contemporary Music Network event demonstrated, his concert music, always performed by his very own band, draws the devoted trends of the City like bees to a honey-pot.

Quite what lures these people, I am at a loss to explain. This is vacuum music, constructed with the most unendearing species of naivety and performed so that what is already bland becomes yet blander through offensively powerful amplification. On a more sinister level, it has all the humanity and liberality — in spite of Nyman's own definition of experimental music as "limitless" — of Clause 27.

Of course, film and television music is another matter; for one thing, it is intended not to be actively listened to and for another, the volume is generally kept relatively low.

On both grounds, I happily confess to giving Nyman's music from *A Zed and Two Noughts* a miss. In these circumstances in the first half constituted a dismal sequence of non-music, with titles like *Bird Lists* and *Song Without Words*, while I failed to detect much wit in *In Re Don Giovanni*, a "deconstruction" of the Catalogue Aria.

An *Eye For Optical Theory* did promise some attractive saxophone breaks, though they were not allowed to flower, but the piece called *Chasing Sheep Is Best Left To Shepherds* provided an irresistible parallel. Composing music is best left to composers.

Stephen Pettitt

PLG/Young Musicians
Purcell Room

The choice of Judith Weir as a featured composer of this week's Park Lane Group concert is shrewd. Her music is quirky enough to be memorable even when placed among much that is refreshingly unfamiliar.

Two of last night's pieces reflected her Scottish heritage, which she uses no less wittily and tangentially than the re-created orientalism of her *Night at the Chinese Opera*.

In *The Bagpiper's String Trio* the Scotch snaps and modal contours may impart a familiar tinge, but Weir's string textures — especially the expressive flurries — and her casting of the piece as a miniature "instrumental opera" about a gruesome historical incident, stamp the piece with originality.

It was played by the Marwood String Trio, who displayed excellent ensemble skills throughout their recital. In Benjamin Franklin's lyrical *String Trio* they might have milked the elegiac aspects more generously, but they concluded with a superbly intense account of Schnittke's 1985 *String Trio*, which swerves from fragmentary pastiche to sardonic brutality in the Russian's customary cryptical manner.

Weir's *Scottish Minstrelsy*, more natty tales from folklore, but set with an ironic touch, was a highlight of the soprano Carol Lesley-Green's contributions. The pianist Jonathan Papp did well to master an accompaniment that seemed like a reduction of some vast late-Romantic orchestral score.

Miss Lesley-Green, full if not especially beauteous in timbre, also made a most spirited attempt at Berlioz's *Sequenza III* and phrased Weber's *Op 25 Songs* intelligently.

The pianist Andrew Bottrill played some Weir: *The Art of Touching the Keyboard*, a rather loosely organized work for all its passing textual felicities. He also gave a carefully-paced account of Robert Saxton's *Piano Sonata*.

Both here and in Bartók's *Piano Sonata*, however, he never seemed fluent enough technically to revel in his material's explosive sensuality.

Richard Morrison

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Tragic errors

Hamlet
Macclesfield Leisure Centre

Half way through their four month itinerary from Barrow in Furness to the Isle of Wight, the RSC/Nat West pitches its false proscenium in a Macclesfield sports hall, in the latest attempt to demonstrate that road show economics can generate as much ingenuity as the luxuries of the Barbican and Stratford.

No doubt they can, but not in the case of this season's *Hamlet*, which abandons any pretence of evoking Elsinore after an opening flourish of sepulchral heavy breathing and thunderous cannon fire which entirely upstage the arrival of Bob Goody's be-draggled Ghost.

Thereafter, the labyrinthine tragedy subsides into an upfront melodrama, accompanied by chilling tremolos and dissonant dances from Jeremy Sams's string trio, and converting atmospheric menace into physical assault.

A sharply irascible Polonius (David Collings) wallows his daughter with a ruler, thuggish Rosencrantz and Guildenstern (one hairy, the other bald) seize their chance to put the boot in. Hamlet himself, dallying with Osrice, spoils the verbal teasing by yanking the victim's wig off.

The general impression you receive from Roger Michell's production is that tragedy is somehow incompatible with the robust trouping spirit. Significantly, the arrival of the players has an electrifying effect.

One band of strolling actors is being invaded by another.

THEATRE

and here too, the shows's anachronistic design (Jacobean costume and modern hand props) pays off when the Gonzago ensemble set up their battered old lighting rig. Unfortunately, Mr Michell spoils their arrival by dividing the Player King's speech between the whole troupe (thus erasing the one-man contrast with Hamlet's "O, what a rogue"), just as he subsequently turns the Gravedigger's song into a shovelling barbershop quintet.

The company is led by Richard O'Callaghan and Maggie Steed; two powerful and idiosyncratic players, here eccentrically paired as Claudius and Gertrude, so as to suggest a large floppy bird in the grip of a tenacious stoat. But they supply a central authority not to be found in Philip Frank's *Hamlet*; a feverish lyric tenor, first seen crashing back into the throne-room with his Wittenberg suitcases, and subsequently deploying the twisted smiles and lachrymose self-communings of a student rebel.

He is also far too trigger-happy with his cues. The first requirement of any *Hamlet* is that you can see him thinking. Tessa Peake-Jones, at first an impassive Ophelia, takes off with unsuspected ferocity in the mad scenes.

Irving Wardle

● A National Theatre workshop production of David Hare's play *Fanshawe* opens at the Gardner Centre, Sussex University, near Brighton, on February 3, beginning an eight-week tour to more than two dozen theatres, colleges and arts centres, which will end with six performances in the Cottesloe Theatre on the South Bank.

Les Waters directs an ensemble company of nine actors playing 33 roles.

Missed chance

The Widowing of Mrs Holroyd
New End Theatre

This is a miserably uninspired production of D. H. Lawrence's play, the last he set in a mining village and the weakest.

The failure is all the more irritating since a production no better than passable would have offered the first chance in 20 years to see how the work stands up on its own.

A summary of the play suggests an evening packed with action. Youngish Mrs Holroyd, orphaned when a child and anxious to move away from her publican uncle, marries the first man to catch her eye.

However, after ten years, his drunken brutality has brought her to the verge of quitting him. Her only confidant, an electrician of courteous habits, persuades her to leave with him for Spain but, the very day after this fateful decision, the husband is killed in the pit.

The play ends with the dead body being laid out for the weeping mother and the guilt-racked wife to wash and dress him for the coffin.

Unfortunately, Lawrence races through these events, perhaps hoping that a play with a beginning, middle and undeniable end would persuade contemporary managers to back him. Enough of his genius for revealing character in a single phrase escapes round the edges of the dim performances to suggest the play might hold its own on the stage, provided the other pair were not close by.

Askelon Theatre Company, it is painfully clear, can spare little cash on design. But where economy of props is proof of pure motives when mounting Greek tragedy, it is disastrous in a play so packed with naturalistic detail. Again and again the cast in Tom Scott's listless production stands still with nothing to do and no reason to move. So they go on standing there with empty faces, and very hollow they look.

The director shows signs of a knack with the two children, and Malcolm Ward occupies the role of hopeful lover to some credit. Aletha Lawson as Mrs H adopts a rigid posture, an unvaryingly doleful gaze, and speaks timidly, as if mourning a dead canary.

Jeremy Kingston



Confrontation over Candida: Grant Thatcher (left) and David Rintoul square up at the Arts

Over-obvious charm

Candida
Arts Theatre

Though classified as a "pleasant" play, *Candida* is rather more than pleasant. In fact, Shaw called it a mystery rather than a comedy, and the claims he makes for it in his preface are not modest.

In showing the limitations of optimistic, Apollonian Christian Socialism and the shadowy emergence of a Dionysian, aesthetic self-fulfilment, he was donning a prophetic mantle, albeit one spun from the lightest possible fabric.

This mysterious element comes through only partially in Frank Hauser's intelligent and lucid production.

Claire Lyth's set manages to do justice to Shaw's obsessively detailed stage instructions without seeming in the least cluttered: the Rev James Morell's Hackney vicarage has just the right feel of

comfortable ship-shapeness.

As the Socialist vicar himself, David Rintoul (looking dapper and almost David Owens in white linen jacket and prominent red handkerchief) starts off a shade too heavy and muscular. Morell is peevish and self-deluded, but he is also intelligent and admirable: it should take a special person to see through him. The first ten minutes, in fact, are overdriven.

Things improve with the entry of Christopher Hancock's loud-check-suited and brown bowler-hatted Burgess (a nice study in sty commercial humbug), but the evening really comes to life with the appearance of Grant Thatcher as Morell's spiritual antagonist, the teenage aristocrat Marchbanks.

Exquisitely clad in crumpled lilac suit and violet cravat, he looks every inch (at least 75 of them) an animated Beethoven cartoon of Aubrey Beardsley. Elongated limbs

gangle and intertwine, hands pluck desperately at coat hems and expressions hurtle from agony to rapture. It is an assured and captivating portrayal; any criticism is that it shoves too easily into manneristic comedy. We should believe in Marchbanks' pain and desolation, not simply write them off as a *fin de siècle* pose.

The palpable mystery of the play concerns the choice of Morell's wife between her husband and the exotic intruder.

Maureen O'Brien captures both Candida's strength and her tenderness; but the portrayal is just too cosy for the choice ever to seem more than hypothetical. Everything, in fact, is a little too clear in this enjoyable production of a play which shows Shaw reaching out to, if not quite touching, the mistier, vaguer realms of poetry.

Harry Eyres

French national enterprise

Paris's new national theatre, La Colline, in the 20th arrondissement, has just been officially inaugurated by the French Minister of Culture Francois Léotard (writes Diane Hill). The new theatre, which cost 96 million francs to build and this season has been allocated a grant of 24.2 million francs, is France's fifth national theatre, after the Comédie Française, Odéon, Chailot and Strasbourg. It is

however, the first to be located in a *quartier populaire*, that is to say a working-class district.

Headed by the internationally-known Argentinian director Jorge Lavelli, who came to Paris from Buenos Aires in 1961, La Colline is to be above all a stage for new and contemporary works. Symbolically, Lavelli has chosen the first French production of Lorca's *The Public*, as the work that will christen La

Colline's superbly equipped 800-seat main auditorium. Its small modular studio theatre will open next month with the world premiere of a play by Copi, the Argentinian writer and cartoonist, who died in Paris last month.

Plans are already well ahead for the construction of three more subsidized theatres in the same theatrical mould as that of La Colline, at Nice, Lille and Bordeaux.

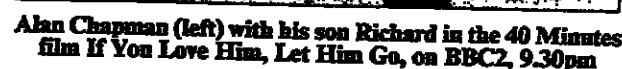
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TELEVISION CHOICE



Peter Waymark

MW (medium wave). Stereo on

MW (medium wave). Stereo on VHF (see below)
News on the half-hour from 6.30am until 8.30pm, then at 10.00 and 12.00 midnight
5.30am Adrian John **7.30** Nicky Campbell **9.30** Simon Bates **12.30pm** Newsbeat (Frank Partridge) **12.45** Gary Davies **3.45** Steve Wright **5.30** Newsbeat **5.45** Bruno Brookes **7.30** Simon Mayo **9.00** My Top Ten Classic (interview with Mark King) **10.00-12.00** Andy Kershaw
VHF Stereo Radios 1 and 2: 4.00am As Radio 2 10.00pm As Radio 1 12.00-4.00am As Radio 2

MW (medium wave). Stored on

MW (medium wave). Stereo on
 WJVs (see Radio 1)
 News on the hour. Sports
 Round-Up 6.50am
 1.00am Bill Rennells 1.00am
 Chris Stuart 7.30 John Stalker
 3.30 Ken Bruce 11.00 Jimmy
 Young 1.05pm David Jacobs 2.00
 Gloria Hunniford 3.30 Adrian
 Lowe 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Wally
 Whymon (with Michael Martin
 Murphy) 8.00 Pat Jones 10.00
 Brian and Friends 10.30
 Surround Cinema (Nick Jackson)
 1.00 Brian Matthew 1.00am
 Patrick Lint 3.00-4.00 A Little
 Night Music

WORLD SERVICE

[illegible]

RADIO CHOICE

5.55 Shipping 6.00 News On Vir-
weather 6.10 Farming
Today 6.25 Prayer for the
Day (9)
6.30 Travel, Inc 6.30, 7.30,
8.30 News 6.45 Business
News 6.55, 7.55 Weather
7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45
Thoughts for the Day 8.35
Yesterday in Parliament
8.57 Weather; Travel
9.00 News bulletin
9.05 Face the Facts (new series):
John Wells and his team of
investigators rate and
pursue politicians' complaints
9.30 John Bull Bids for Uncle
Sam: John Roberts reports on
American businessmen and
British expatriates in
American companies are
coopering with British

10.00 **News:** The Natural History
 programme with Fergus
 Keenan
 10.45 **An Act of Worship (s)**
 11.00 **News:** Travel; Citizens
 11.25 **My Hero:** Cliff Morgan in
 the role of the scruffy
 player and businessman Dr
 Tony O'Reilly about his life,
 work and the people who
 have influenced him
 11.50 **Lines of Communication:**
 Patrick Hannan takes an
 amusing look at the perils of
 language
 12.00 **News:** You and Yours: with
 John Howard
 12.25 **Music by the Sea:** Fritz
 Spieg describes some of
 the musical delights on offer
 to holidaymakers in English
 resorts (first of six
 programmes) (r) 12.55
 1.00 **World At One**
 1.40 **The Archers 1.55 Shipping**
 2.00 **News: Women's Hour:**
 presented items include an
 interview with a Welsh girl
 who worked in Vietnamese
 refugee camps; and
 a feature about the Women's
 Press 'Protest' campaign
 2.00 **News: Interruption:** Play by
 Alan England, with Michael
 Tudor Games as the vicar.
 Cast includes Jennifer
 Percy (r) 2.15
 2.00 **News: Outlook**
 2.05 **Bookstart:** Nigel Fret
 visits the National Museum at
 New Scotland Yard and
 meets its chronicler and
 curator, Bill Waddell (see
 C1)
 2.35 **Kaleidoscope:** Includes
 items on the new screen

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1:1053kHz/285kHz/433m; 908kHz/330m; Radio 3: 121kHz/200kHz/1500m; VHF-82-85; LBC:115kHz/194m; VHF-95.8; BBC Radio London Services: MF 848kHz/463m

Dr. David

BBC1

6.00 Coexaf Arm.
6.35 Leon Earl in Let's Go Stepping (tv). **6.55 Weather.**

7.00 Breakfast Time with Jerry Brown and Sally Jones. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25.

8.30 Laverne and Shirley. American comedy series starring Penny Marshall and Cindy Williams. **8.55 Regional news and weather.**

9.00 News and weather followed by *Open House*. Eamonn Holmes receives viewers' comments on yesterday's television programmes. **9.20 Kirkly.** Robert Kirkly-Silk chairs a discussion on a topical subject.

10.00 News and weather followed by *Going for Gold* (t). **10.25 Children's BBC.** Andy Crane on children's programme news and children's games followed by *Play School* and *The Wombles* (t).

10.55 Five to Eleven. A reading by Annette Crosbie. **11.00 News** and weather followed by *Open Air* with Bob Wellings and Susan Rice.

12.00 News and weather followed by *Daytime Live*. The guests include *Summer of the Year*, Michelle Desakin, Sarah Jones, widow of Falklands hero Colonel 'H' Jones, and Kerry Everett. Music is provided by Marisa Robbes and Alexander Beyond. **12.55 Regional news and weather.**

1.00 One O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. Weather. **1.30 News.** All of Ramsey St become mixed up in an heroine's mysterious antics. **1.50 Going for Gold.** European general knowledge quiz.

2.15 Film. *Stars and Stripes* (1955) starring Peter Finch and Kay Kendall. Comedy about an unhappily married couple who play a happily coupled pair in a television serial. Directed by Muriel Box.

2.50 Jimbo and the Jet Set (t). **4.05 The Chuckleheads** (t). **4.05 SuperTed** (t). **4.20 Jackanory.** Sylvestra La Touzel with part of *Berlioz Doherty's Children of Winter* 4.30 and *Children of the World* with Willy Fog. Willy reaches Calcutta.

4.35 Newsround with Helen Rollason and Roger Finn. **5.05 Blue Peter** 5.30 Neighbours (t).

6.00 Six O'Clock News with Sue Lawley and Nicholas Witchell. Weather. **6.35 London Pass.**

7.00 Top of the Pops introduced by Simon May (t) Gary Davies.

7.30 EastEnders. Dr Lugg comes up on a prospective new tenant. (Coaxed)

8.00 Tomorrow's World includes news on a micro under an ant persiprant that needs only one application a week; a chemically-heated overcoat for lambs; and an anti-noise device for car drivers.

8.30 Mastermind. The specialist subjects are Tolstoy, the collage of Roman Britain, the Imperial Japanese Navy 1939-1945, and Alexander Graham Bell.

9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis and Debbie Throover. Regional news and weather.

9.30 The Fall and Rise of Reginald Parnham. With his staff ready and eager Reggie opens the doors of Parrito to the general public, but the anticipated rush fails to materialize (t).

10.05 Question Time. For the first time in the history of the programme Sir Robin Day has an all-woman panel - Harriet Crawley, Baroness Soar and MPs Joan Lester and Angela Rumbold.

11.05 European Figure Skating Championships from Prague featuring the Ladies Free Programme. Plus highlights from this afternoon's Original Set Pattern Dance.

11.55 Weather.

BBC2

9.00 *Ceefax 9.35* *Daytime on Two:* asking directions in French **9.52** *The Peasants' Revolt 10.15* Different types of bread **10.38** Seismic and volcanic activity **11.00** *Thinkabout 11.15* A north-easterly wind **11.35** The friendship of three cities is threatened **12.05** Electronic energy levels **12.25** A major issue of the week **12.50** The secondary science curriculum **1.30** For the very young **1.58** Rhythm and beat **2.00** News and weather followed by a programme about the world after sunset.

2.20 *Panorama: What Price on Your Head?* The consequences of the Community Charge (r).

3.00 News and weather followed by *World Data*. Highlights of last night's second round matches.

3.30 News and weather.

4.00 *Catchword 4.30* *Day Out* with Angela Rippon in the Mendips Hills (r).

5.00 *Best of Brass*. Featured today are the *Doxford Military Downy Band*, the *Newham Band* and the *Foden OTS Band 5.30*. *Holiday 58* (r). (Ceefax)

6.00 *Battlestar Galactica*. Science fiction adventure series starring *Lorne Greene*.

6.50 *Top Avenue cartoon*.

7.00 *Cover to Cover* presented by *Jim Neville*. The guests include *P.J.O'Rourke*, *Emily Prager*, *Carole Hayman*, *Bill Bryden* and *Richard Denton*.

7.40 *The Education Programme*. A film commissioned by Somerset County Council about *Community Education*.

8.10 *The War in Korea*. Part two of *Max Hastings's* four-part programme series on the history of the Korean War. (Ceefax)

8.50 *Yes, Prime Minister*. At Question Time *Jim Hacker* innocently denies that he authorized the purchase of an MP's telephone. But Sir Humphrey knows better. (Ceefax)

9.30 *40 Minutes: If You Love Him, Let Him Go*. (Ceefax) (see Choice)

10.10 *News*.

10.40 *Agin*. With *Rory Bremner* (r).

10.40 *Renaissance 11.25* *Weather*.

11.30 *World Data*. The first two quarter-finals of the *Embassy World Professional* championship. Ends at **12.15am**.

VARIATIONS

Star Scotland 1.30-2.00pm £1.20
 Scotland's Top 100 1.30-2.00pm
 Scottish Music Festival 1.30-2.00pm
 5.30pm Today's Sport 5.30-6.00pm
 News from Home 6.00-6.30pm
 6.30-7.00pm Our Jimmy 6.30-7.00pm
 6.35pm-7.40pm Regional news magazines

ANGLIA As London except 12.30-1.00pm-1.50pm
 1.50-2.30 Local news
 Hopkirk (Deceased) 6.50-7.30pm Abroad
 7.30-8.00pm News from Home
 Prisoner: Call Block 11.00 Film: The
 Your Funnest 8.00-9.00pm: Slither
 9.00-9.30pm News from Home
 9.30-10.00pm 5.00 Close

BORDER As London except 12.30-1.00pm
 1.50-2.30 Gardening Time 2.30-
 2.50 Local News Talking (John
 Brandrich) 3.30-4.00pm The Young
 Doctors 4.00-4.30pm Lookaround 10.30-
 11.00pm News from Home 12.00-12.08pm
 May 12.30 Close

CENTRAL As London except 12.30-1.00pm
 The Young Doctors 12.30-1.00pm
 1.50-2.30pm The 11.00 News 3.00-
 3.30pm 10.30-11.00pm Central
 Lobby 11.00-11.30pm Central
 1.40pm Special Bulletin 2.50pm World
 Weekend 3.00pm, Jubilee

CHANNEL As London except 12.30-1.00pm
 News 1.00pm Prisoner 1.30-2.00pm
 Country Parade 2.00-2.30pm Come 2.30-
 3.30pm Chain Letters 6.00-6.30pm
 News from Home 6.30-7.00pm
 Aired Hatched Presents 11.00pm
 Medical Journal 11.30-12.00pm
 12.30-1.00pm News from Home 1.30-1.58pm
 The Baron 1.30pm Closedown

GRAMPIAN As London except 12.30-1.00pm
 1.00-1.50pm 6.00-6.30pm 10.30-11.00pm
 10.30-11.00pm Sports Top Ten 11.00-11.30pm
 11.30-11.55pm Flamingo Stating 12.30-1.00pm
 Closedown

GRANADA As London except 12.30-1.00pm
 1.00pm Granada Reports 1.30-2.30pm
 Country Parade 2.30-3.00pm The Young
 Doctors 4.00-4.30pm Granada Reports 4.30-
 5.25-6.30pm This Is Your Hour 10.30-10.50pm
 Sports Reports 10.50-11.00pm 11.00-11.30pm
 11.30-12.00pm World News 12.30pm
 Closedown

HTV WEST As London except 12.30-1.00pm
 1.00pm News 1.30-2.00pm News from Home
 2.30-3.00pm News 10.30-11.00pm West 12.30pm
 Closedown

ITV HALES As London except 12.30-1.00pm
 1.30-2.00pm Wales at Six 1.30-2.00pm
 Regions 11.00-11.30pm Local
 Journey to the Shetlands
 Closedown

SCOTTISH As London except 12.30-1.00pm
 1.00-1.50pm News 1.30-2.30pm
 2.30-3.00pm News from Home 3.00-3.30pm
 Scotland Today 10.30-11.00pm
 Quiz Questions 10.30-11.00pm
 Quiz 11.00-11.30pm

TSW As London except 12.30-1.00pm
 1.30-2.00pm What You Were Here
 2.00-2.30pm A Woman's World
 10.30-11.00pm Jazz 11.00-11.30pm
 from the Darkside 12.30-1.00pm
 Closedown

TVS As London except 12.30-1.00pm
 1.00-1.30pm News from Home 1.30-2.00pm
 Country Parade 2.00-2.30pm
 2.30-3.00pm Chain Letters 3.00-3.30pm
 Coast to Coast 3.30-4.00pm
 5.50-6.40pm Aired Hatched
 6.40-7.30pm News from Home 7.30-8.00pm
 8.00-8.30pm Medical Journal 8.30-9.00pm
 Stating 12.30-1.00pm News from Home
 1.30-1.58pm The Baron 1.30pm Closedown

ITV/LONDON

6.00 TV-*an begins with a repeat of yesterday's G7 Britain and includes, at 7.00 and 8.00 for half-an-hour, Good Morning Britain introduced by Richard Keys*

7.30 *Arnie Diamond presented by Arnie Diamond in Australia. Also includes an item on massed*

8.35 *Themes news headlines.*

9.30 *Give Us a Clue, Celebrity mine game presented by Michael Parkinson. 10.00 Santa*

10.00 *10.35 Themes news headlines*

11.30 *The Time... The Place... Mike Scott charts a topical discussion 11.10 Puddin' Lane, Puppet series presented by Neil Innes 11.25 Themes*

12.00 *Homeless. Roy Hudd visits Great Yarmouth and learns about its history from the town's older community 12.00 The*

12.00 *Subjects*

12.30 *News with Julia Somerville 12.50 Themes news*

1.00 *Chain Letters. Word Association game 1.30 Falcon Crest. Drama series set in the California vine-growing community. Starring Jane Wyman 2.25 Home Cookery Club. Barrie H. Gelfand. Show*

2.30 *All Out. Gardening. Richard Braden looks back to the events of 1963 3.00 Gams. Drama series about London's rag trade 3.25 Themes news headlines 3.50 News and headlines 3.50 News and headlines*

4.00 *Creepy Crawlers. Paul Nicholas with the story of When Up Was Down 4.10 Fire*

4.10 *Wander presented by Gabrielle Bradshaw 4.20 The Scooby Show with Matthew Corbett 4.45 Dennis. Cartoon series*

5.00 *The Book Tower. Books for children (10-15)*

5.00 *Blockbusters.*

5.30 *News with Flora Armstrong 6.00 Themes news.*

6.30 *Emmerdale Farm. Alan Turner news about NY Estates' plans for his future.*

7.00 *Sporting Triangles. Sports of teams led by Jimmy Greaves, Teresa Sanderson and Andy Gray.*

7.30 *Blaze This House. Domestic safety series from the 1970s starring Sidney James and Diana Coupland (r).*

8.00 *Strike It Lucky. Quiz game presented by Michael Barryn using the latest technology.*

8.30 *The Week's Latest in the Close Denis Tuohy answers the implications of the local government bill, now before Parliament, making it an offence for local authorities to "promote" homosexuality.*

9.00 *L.A. Law. The first of a new drama series set in the offices swish Los Angeles law firm. Starring Harry Hamlin.*

10.00 *News at Ten with Alastair Burnet and Alison Stewart 10.30 Themes news headlines.*

10.35 *The Programme includes a report on whether or not mail order will be the saviour of High Street stores; and will mortgage be a thing of the past?*

11.05 *Starburst. The European Figure Skating Championships from Prague featuring the Ladies Free Programme.*

12.05 *01-for London. A critical guide to the capital's entertainments. Followed by Crimemasters.*

12.35 *Prisoner Cell Block H. Drama series set in an Australian women's prison.*

1.30 *Kojak. The detective investigates the mystery surrounding five missing Rembrandts.*

2.30 *Comedy headlines followed by Too Close for Comfort. Comedy series*

3.00 *Film: The Torture Garden (1957) starring Jack Palance and Peter Cushing. Thriller about a sinister carnival set in London. Directed by Freddie Francis.*

5.00 *ITN World News 5.30 CNN*

CHANNEL 4

20 Schools.
200 Business Daily.
2:30 Just 4 Fun. For the young.
3:00 She Bought a Computer (r).
 (Orca) **3:30 The Marketing Mix**
 (r) (Orca)
4:00 The Parliament Programme
4:30 Women in View (r)
5:00 Building Jack (1985, b/w)
 starring John Gielgud, Ralph Richardson and Fay Wray
 Comedy thriller about a substitute Building Drummond on the trail of a notorious gang. Directed by Walter Forster.
5:30 Film: Stunter Jack's Night Off (b/w). The story of a courageous railway stunter during a 1940 air raid. Directed by Maxwell Anderson.
5:55 Fifteen-to-One. Quiz show.
6:00 Film: The Volunteer (1943, b/w) starring Ralph Richardson as an actor's dresser who volunteers for the Fleet Air Arm and becomes a skilled engineer. Directed by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger.
6:30 Mago's Check Up. Cartoon.
7:00 Ice Skating. The European Figure Skating championships from Prague featuring the Original Six Pairs with Peter Sissons and Nicholas Owen.
7:50 Comment and Weather.
8:00 The New Enlightenment
 (Orca) **8:30 The Hidden Kingdom**
 A Himalayan Adventure. A documentary following the fortunes of a British climbing expedition in the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan.
9:30 Film on Four Takes 2: Wetherby (1985) starring Vanessa Redgrave as a caterpillar at a dinner party given by a Yorkshire librarian is destined to make the woman recall her days as a young girl. Directed by David Hare (r).
11:25 Film: Gates of Heaven (1978). A documentary about cemeteries for animals in the United States. Directed by Errol Morris.
12:55 Film: A Life in the Hand (1981) starring Garry Boris. The story tracing the shifting relationships of a close-knit family caused by the arrival of an attractive young man seduced by Clay Boris. Ends at 2.00.

TEES *As London*

[illegible]

RADIO CHOICE

5.55 Shipping 6.00 News On Vir-
weather 6.10 Farming
Today 6.25 Prayer for the
Day (9)
6.30 Travel, Inc 6.30, 7.30,
8.30 News 6.45 Business
News 6.55, 7.55 Weather
7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45
Thoughts for the Day 8.35
Yesterday in Parliament
8.57 Weather; Travel
9.00 News bulletin
9.05 Face the Facts (new series):
John Wells and his team of
investigators rate and
pursue politicians' complaints
9.30 John Bull Bids for Uncle
Sam: John Roberts reports on
American businessmen and
British expatriates in
American companies are
coopering with British

management, as many
of the programmes have been taken
over by British owners
10.00 News: The Natural History
programme with Fergus
Knox
10.45 An Act of Worship (s)
11.00 News: Travel; Citizens
11.25 My Hero: Cliff Morgan in
a new series with rugby
player and businessman Dr
Tony O'Reilly about his life,
work and the people who
have influenced him
11.50 Lines of Communication:
Patrick Hannan takes an
amusing look at the perils of
language
12.00 News; You and Yours: with
John Howard
12.25 Music by the Sea: Fritz
Spiegel describes some of
the musical delights on offer
to holidaymakers in English
resorts (first of six
programmes) (r) 12.55
The World At One
1.00 The Archers 1.55 Shipping
News; Women's Hour:
presented items include an
interview with a Welsh girl
who worked in Vietnamese
refugee camps; and
a feature about the Women's
Press 'Project' - a group of
women who work in the
1.00 News; Interruption: Play by
Alan England, with Michael
Tudor Games as the vicar.
Casting includes Jennifer
Piercy (c) 2.00
2.00 News bulletin
02 Bookstart: Nigel Fretwell
presents a new museum at
New Scotland Yard and
meets its chronicler and
curator, Bill Waddell (see
Ch. 1)
3.05 Kaleidoscope: includes
items on the new screen


FREQUENCIES: Radio 1:1053kHz/285kHz/433m; 908kHz/330m; Radio 3: 121kHz/200kHz/1500m; VHF-82-85; LBC:115kHz/194m; VHF-95.8; BBC Radio London Services: MF 848kHz/463m

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- **A safety check will be carried out by the Raleigh Dealer.**
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EEC single licence proposal sparks banking revolution

From Richard Owen Brussels

The European Commission yesterday launched a proposal, described by one official as a "revolution in European banking," whereby any bank in an EEC member country will be able to operate throughout the Community on the basis of a single licence issued in its country of origin.

Lord Cockfield, the Commissioner for the Internal Market, said this was a very important step which laid the basis for a Europe-wide banking service.

At present, banks can open subsidiaries in another EEC country, subject to the controls of that country. Under the new directive, Lloyd's or Barclays would be able to open a branch in France or West Germany without authorization from the banking

authorities in Paris or Bonn, just as Crédit Lyonnais or the Dresdner Bank would be able to open branches in Britain. These branches would be licensed or authorized in their home country, not in the "host" country, on the basis of agreed common standards.

The European Banking Federation in Brussels welcomed the proposal, which is part of the EEC's plan for abolishing all internal trade barriers by the end of 1992.

Signora Daria Leone, a spokeswoman for the federation, said it would benefit European banks and enable them to compete in a unified market of 320 million people. British banks in particular should benefit, she said.

But banking experts said several sticking points needed to be cleared up before the

proposal could be passed into law by the Council of Ministers.

Lord Cockfield admitted it was as yet unclear whether EEC banks operating outside their own countries might have to comply with at least some of the regulations of their "host" country, in addition to having the single common licence. This applied, for example, to national laws requiring banks to disclose information for tax purposes, and to the powers of central banks over instruments of national fiscal policy such as interest rates.

A particular difficulty for Britain lies in securities. Lord Cockfield listed dealing in securities as one of the "core activities" of banking as defined by the directive, along with depositing and lending

money, portfolio management, leasing, futures trading and credit cards. At present, the Securities and Investments Board controls security dealings in Britain, and officials predicted the SIB would resist the concept of a single EEC licensing system.

Lord Cockfield said there would be a "dialogue" between the Commission and member states to ensure that national legislation came into line with the new directive, adding that the SIB was "already doing many of the things envisaged by the directive."

Under the new system, banks licensed to operate throughout the EEC would have to have a minimum capital of £3.5 million, and provide Brussels with information on their large share-

holders. Banks would be limited in their ability to undertake non-banking activities, for example, the purchase of shares.

Lord Cockfield said the banking directive had to be seen in conjunction with other EEC proposals, such as the directive on freedom of capital movements. He hoped the proposal would be adopted by the end of next year.

Officials said that third country - non-EEC - banks would have to apply for a licence to operate a subsidiary in any EEC country. Under new EEC rules, granting such a licence would depend on whether the EEC enjoyed reciprocal rights in the country requesting the right to operate in Europe, with particular reference to the US and Japan.

COMMENT

Bank auction scores a hat-trick against gilts

The Bank of England has scored a hat-trick with its third experimental auction in gilts. It has upset the market-makers, knocked the market down by a point, and appeared to endorse a yield structure which implies significantly higher base rates than the present 8.5 per cent. Not bad for a day's work.

Each of the three experimental gilts auctions has left the gilt market feeling less than charitable towards the Bank. The difference with yesterday's £1 billion auction of Treasury 3½ per cent 1997 was that the bid feeling began as soon as the auction was over.

The main problem arose from the overriding desire to get the stock away, even though - at a paltry 1.07 times cover - there was clearly not enough interest in yesterday's sale. It is open to any auctioneer to withdraw lots from a sale, and to set a reserve price. The Bank, in accepting "silly" bids, 1½ points below prevailing market levels, ignored both of those precepts yesterday.

Peter Clarke, head of Kleinwort Greaveson Gilts, spoke for a large number of market-makers in expressing anger over the conduct of yesterday's sale. And certainly it is hard to disagree with his observation that for any parent

company to which gilt market-making is of marginal interest, yesterday's events will have done little to encourage continuing with a loss-making gilts subsidiary.

The Bank, having accepted the innovation of auctions with less than open arms, may not be at all disappointed with the latest result. Any pressure from the Treasury for further auctions will be muted, and the Bank will be free to continue with the old, and surprisingly successful muddle of tenders, taps and tranchettes.

Even so, the Bank may need to do something to repair relations with the market-makers. Gilts market-making is typically a loss-making business. The authorities took the view that it would not limit entry to the market, as long as people were prepared to take losses on the chin. But there is a difference between the natural losses inherent in an overcrowded market, and those brought on by official tactics.

On several occasions over the past year, the gilts market has blamed the Bank for creating situations in which the majority were carrying losses. That may be appropriate to the cut and thrust of a competitive environment. But it may not be the best basis for the long-term future of the gilts market.

BAT's battle for Farmers

Long-range takeovers have a nasty habit of costing a great deal of money, but at least BAT Industries is starting its battle for Farmers Group of Los Angeles at a low enough price. The opening bid of \$60 a share, while adding up to a heady \$4.2 billion in total, is no more than a sighting shot which leaves room for negotiation.

BAT has been determined to break into the United States personal finance market, and the price currently on offer for Farmers offers no premium for entry, just reasonable value in a normal takeover. But BAT will have to be prepared to go further to acquire the best available personal lines specialist of sufficient size to make the game worth the candle. Yesterday's reaction in the BAT share price, up 15p to 435p, may have been suggesting that BAT would successfully acquire Farmers for under 17 times' earnings, whereas the company is likely to have to go to \$70 or more.

But, even at that price, the acquisition could prove a winner. BAT, despite its strategy of diversification, still sits nearer a tobacco rating than a financial services rating. The successful purchase of Farmers would, based on 1986 results, push the percentage of profits earned from financial services up from 19 per cent to 30 per cent. Even more important, it would push the percentage

from tobacco below the 50 per cent level for the first time, down to 44 per cent.

Against that, however, the proportion of dollar profits, not exactly good news to analysts at present, would go up from 44 per cent to 51 per cent. That said, BAT is buying in somewhat cheaper dollars.

The share price reaction also had something to do with the assurance from BAT that there would be no rights issue to finance the bid, which, with the shares standing at a probable 7.5 times' 1987 earnings and nearer 6.5 times' prospective 1988 earnings, was never really a runner anyway. The tobacco side is generating lashings of cash and, even after taking a successful purchase of Farmers into the balance sheet, admittedly at the opening price, debt would not rise beyond 70 per cent of shareholders' funds. After the Eagle Star acquisition it hit 65 per cent.

BAT may, however, start an auction for Farmers, for it is not the only cash-rich multinational to be looking at financial services as an area for growth. Its old rival, Allianz of West Germany, under the nose of which it snatched Eagle Star, could well be interested in mounting a counter-offer. And if the two of them found themselves locked in battle to win the hearts of the Farmers, then prices could really start getting silly.

Bryant & May set to light up market

By Joe Joseph

Bryant & May, which makes Swan Vesta matches and Chippendale lighters, is planning a fresh push on the British lights market after its recent takeover by Swedish Match.

Mr Richard Armitage, right, the chairman of Bryant & May, said yesterday: "In Swedish Match we now have a parent who understands the lights business and who also has a firm commitment to invest and grow in Britain."

Mr Armitage, speaking at a presentation at the Café Royal in London yesterday, added: "The British lights market in world terms is large, vigorous, and exceptionally strongly branded with a lot of opportunities still to go for."

Match sales account for about half of the £160 million-a-year British lights market, with the balance made up by lighters and smokers' goods. (Photograph by Nick Rogers.)



Background to a bid

BAT looks to US for expansion

By Allison Keeble

BAT Industries, which yesterday launched an ambitious £2.3 billion bid for Farmers, the US insurance group, is Britain's seventh largest company, with a market value of £6.3 billion.

It is still best known as a tobacco group, making such famous brands as John Player Special and Benson & Hedges, and selling about 20 per cent of the non-Communist world's cigarettes.

Efforts to diversify away from tobacco in recent years have led to the build up of the financial services division, but the third quarter results to end-September still showed tobacco contributing more than half the group's trading profit.

The move into financial services has been made through very large acquisitions. The entry was made in 1984 with the £968 million

BAT INDUSTRIES

Sector	Turnover (£bn)	Trading profit (£m)
Tobacco	8.34	764
Retail	4.76	211
Fin Servs	3.2	282
Paper	1.76	217
Other	1.13	41
Total	19.17	1,400*

*Profit

takeover of Eagle Star, after a prolonged battle for control with rival Allianz Versicherung, West Germany's largest insurance group.

Eagle Star is one of Britain's largest general insurers and the sixth largest British composite operating worldwide.

In 1985 BAT paid £664 million for Allied Dunbar Assurance (then Hambro Life), Britain's largest unlinked life assurance company

SUBSIDIARIES

Tobacco: Brown & Williamson (US); BAT (UK) brands include John Player Special, Benson & Hedges, Lucky Strike, Kim, Kent and Pall Mall.

Retail: Saks Fifth Ave (US); Marshall Field (US); Argos (UK); Horton (W Germany).

Paper: Appleton Papers (US); Wiggins Teape (UK).

Financial Services: Eagle Star (UK); Allied Dunbar (UK).

and the second largest unit trust group in the UK. In 1986, BAT's financial services operations moved into North America with the acquisition of Canada Trustco Mortgage Company for Can\$2.6 billion.

BAT has made no secret of its desire for a significant acquisition in financial services in the US, particularly in the rich American market for personal financial services. It has been looking at Farmers Group since mid-summer and

made the first approach just days after the market collapse.

Its offer to discuss a merger was quickly rebuffed and Farmers has since been building its defences with a few standard poison pill tactics, including increasing its share options for directors.

One of Farmers' objections was that BAT, with its vast tobacco interests, was particularly unsuitable as Farmers offered non-smokers' discounts on some policies.

BAT shares rose 5p yesterday to 425p on news of the offer, before falling back with the market. The shares have underperformed since the end of November, when the company gave a warning that turmoil on world currency and stock markets would have a significant impact on 1987.

Third quarter pretax profits were £1,023 million against £882 million for the first nine months of 1986.

Parkinson poised to move on

Malcolm Parkinson, the former Woolworth executive, who in return for a £150,000-a-year contract joined the tiny Benlox engineering company to help its checky takeover bid for Sir Terence Coman's Storehouse group - could be on the move again. Benlox lost - to no one's great surprise - and now Parkinson tells me that unless it attempts to get back into the retail market soon, he will be forced to find an alternative company to accommodate his retailing talents. Clearly not a naturally modest man, he said yesterday: "In all probability I will be leaving Benlox. I am a retailing man and need to be back in the action. There are plenty of companies around which could do with someone with retailing skills." He apparently has nothing lined up, but believes that one supermarket group, currently involved in a bid, could do with some extra muscle.

Parkinson, aged 42, would not deny that his hurried recruitment to the Benlox camp just two months ago was intended to give credibility to its demerger plans. Parkinson ran into criticism of his record from the Storehouse camp. He was chief executive of Woolworth stores for only 15 months, and it was claimed his experience fell "far short of the record of demonstrable success" of Sir Terence. Nevertheless, Parkinson is just waiting for those head-hunters to come along.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Cohen and able

In the corporate finance department of investment bank Charterhouse lurks a budding Jeffrey Archer. Janet Cohen - who writes under her maiden name of Neal - publishes her first novel, *Death's Bright Angel*, on Monday, under the wing of Constable Publishers. A qualified solicitor and mother of three, Cohen is currently an assistant corporate finance director at Charterhouse, specialising in privatization buyouts such as

Unipart and Allied Steel and Wire. But her colleagues there needn't worry - the novel is based on her earlier 13-year stint at the Department of Trade and Industry. "It hinges around an ailing company, a fraud and a murder," she reveals, intriguingly. The launch party will be held, appropriately, in trendy St Martin's Lane eatery, Cafe Pelican, where Cohen - clearly a sexy-faced lady - has a 7½ per cent share stake.

Tenby returns

Viscount Tenby, son of former Home Secretary Gwilym Lloyd-George, and grandson of legendary Prime Minister David Lloyd George, has resurfaced in the City. Public relations adviser to the chairman of merchant bank Kleinwort Greaveson for

14 years, until he retired after his 60th birthday in November, Bill - as he prefers to be known - has just become a non-executive director of family-owned security printer Williams Lea. It involves two or three days work a week, co-ordinating its public affairs, and he tells me that he also has other irons in the fire. "I'm on the advisory board of IIP, which organizes The Money Exhibition, and I'm looking at one or two other possibilities," he says. He has also been spending more time at the House of Lords, although he has yet to make his maiden speech. "With my ancestry it's a daunting prospect."

Financial managers at the ever-mysterious Kuwait Investment Office must make a pretty good living. I hear that Peter Deffy, who helped run the powerful fund until well into last year, has retired to Spain even though he has still not reached his 40th birthday.



"Madam is quite correct - it is filled with lovely fireproof concrete."

Poetic licence

Whilst I am not in the habit of publishing personal letters, a missive from aspiring poet Laureate Ian "Rocket" Stephenson, of stockbroker Wood Mackenzie, deserves nothing less.

I've been in the City for 20 long years.

I've lunched with morons, gnomes and weirds.

I've feasted on quail's eggs washed down with Krug.

And drunk pints of bitter in a Threadneedle Street smug.

But today took the biscuit, Stone me, Holy Moses.

Embarrassed: Old Rocket returned with red roses.

My explanation is, in fairness, being made equally public:

A dozen red roses and an excellent meal.

Sounds very immoral, and he doesn't reveal.

That he lunched with two ladies, I'll give you no names.

So what were they after, those two lovely dames?

The answer I'll give to this riddle-me-ree.

The ladies were journaes, of which one was me.

The funniest tales in the diary these days.

Are often the outcome of what Rocket says.

A dozen red roses is the least we could do.

I think it's appropriate, I'm sure you do too.

Carol Leonard

WHEN WE GIVE FINANCIAL ADVICE, IT'S ALSO OUR MONEY THAT TALKS.

ARGYLL GROUP PLC
ACQUISITION OF
SAFEWAY
FOODSTORES LIMITED
FEBRUARY, 1987

EQUITY £621M DEBT £100M

ADVISER:
SAMUEL MONTAGU

UNDERWRITER:
SAMUEL MONTAGU

UNITED NEWSPAPERS PLC
ACQUISITION OF
EXTEL GROUP PLC
MAY, 1987

EQUITY £185M DEBT £64M

ADVISER:
SAMUEL MONTAGU

UNDERWRITER:
SAMUEL MONTAGU

WESTERN MOTOR HOLDINGS PLC
ACQUISITION OF
PENTA LIMITED
JUNE, 1987

EQUITY £11M DEBT £14M

ADVISER:
SAMUEL MONTAGU

UNDERWRITER:
SAMUEL MONTAGU

WPP GROUP PLC
ACQUISITION OF
JWT GROUP INC.
JULY, 1987

EQUITY £213M DEBT \$310M

ADVISER:
SAMUEL MONTAGU

UNDERWRITER:
SAMUEL MONTAGU

LEE INTERNATIONAL PLC
ACQUISITION OF
PANAVISION INC AND
OFFER BY WESTWARD
COMMUNICATIONS PLC
AUGUST, 1987

DEBT \$340M

ADVISER:
SAMUEL MONTAGU

UNDERWRITER:
SAMUEL MONTAGU

EQUITICORP HOLDINGS LIMITED
ACQUISITION OF
GUINNESS PEAT GROUP PLC
SEPTEMBER, 1987

EQUITY £138M DEBT £130M

ADVISER:
SAMUEL MONTAGU

UNDERWRITER:
SAMUEL MONTAGU

CITY AND FOREIGN HOLDINGS PLC
ACQUISITION OF
ALEXANDER PROUDFOOT
COMPANY WORLDWIDE
HOLDINGS LP
NOVEMBER, 1987

EQUITY £101M DEBT \$43M

ADVISER:
SAMUEL MONTAGU

UNDERWRITER:
SAMUEL MONTAGU

MECCA LEISURE GROUP PLC
ACQUISITION OF
CERTAIN LEISURE
BUSINESSES FROM
LADBROKE GROUP PLC
DECEMBER, 1987

EQUITY £31M DEBT £30M

ADVISER:
SAMUEL MONTAGU

UNDERWRITER:
SAMUEL MONTAGU

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[illegible]

Portfolio - Gold -

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No.	Company	Share	Gain or Loss
1	Lloyds (as)	Bank/Discount	
2	Dryden (as)	Industrial A-D	
3	New International	Newspapers/Pub	
4	Bus Mortgage	Bank/Discount	
5	Security Serv	Industrial E-K	
6	Caradon	Building/Roads	
7	Warrington	Building/Roads	
8	Asda	Property	
9	F&S	Paper/Print/Adv	
10	Homes Pro	Industrial E-K	
11	Lamont	Textiles	
12	Low	Industrial L-R	
13	Widling Office	Drugs/Stores	
14	Tyler & Son	Drugs/Stores	
15	Hutchings	Paper/Print/Adv	
16	Conder Gyr	Building/Roads	
17	Allied Irish	Bank/Discount	
18	PWS	Insurance	
19	Marshall (Hull)	Building/Roads	
20	Erskine Hse	Industrial E-K	
21	Dewhurst	Electricals	
22	BSG	Industrial A-D	
23	Pitch Design	Paper/Print/Adv	
24	Black	Electricals	
25	Cook (Wm)	Industrial A-D	
26	Removers (as)	Food	
27	Rat Rm	Bank/Discount	
28	Southend Stadium	Property	
29	ERA Gp	Drugs/Stores	
30	Crest Milling	Food	
31	Windsor Securities	Insurance	
32	DDT Group	Electricals	
33	Watson & Philip	Food	
34	Goring Kerr	Industrial E-K	
35	Ryl Bt Sot (as)	Bank/Discount	
36	Amber Day	Drugs/Stores	
37	Lee Und Inv	Insurance	
38	Com Union (as)	Insurance	
39	Reed Int (as)	Industrial L-R	
40	Bentall	Drugs/Stores	
41	New Cavendish	Property	
42	Guinness Group	Leisure	
43	Chambers (as)	Industrial A-D	
44	Bibby (J)	Industrial A-D	

Please take into account any minus signs

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Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS			
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SHORTS (Under Five Years)			
High Low	Stock	Price	Change

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS			
High Low	Stock	Price	Change

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS			
High Low	Stock	Price	Change

UNDATED			
High Low	Stock	Price	Change

INDEX-LINKED			
High Low	Stock	Price	Change

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP			
High Low	Stock	Price	Change

ELECTRICALS			
High Low	Stock	Price	Change

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS			
High Low	Stock	Price	Change

CINEMAS, TV			
High Low	Stock	Price	Change

DRAPERY, STORES			
High Low	Stock	Price	Change

HOTELS, CATERERS			
High Low	Stock	Price	Change

INDUSTRIALS A-D			
High Low	Stock	Price	Change

S-Z			
High Low	Stock	Price	Change

OILS, GAS			
High Low	Stock	Price	Change

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS			
High Low	Stock	Price	Change

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT			
High Low	Stock	Price	Change

SHIPPING			
High Low	Stock	Price	Change

SHOES, LEATHER			
High Low	Stock	Price	Change

TEXTILES			
High Low	Stock	Price	Change

TOBACCO			
High Low	Stock	Price	Change

FINANCE, LAND			
High Low	Stock	Price	Change

FINANCIAL TRUSTS			
High Low	Stock	Price	Change

E-K			
High Low	Stock	Price	Change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began on January 11. Dealings end January 22. Contango day January 25. Settlement day February 1. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (sa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 20.)

High Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E

BREWERIES					
High Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E

BUILDING, ROADS					
High Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E

FINANCE, LAND					
High Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E

FINANCIAL TRUSTS					
High Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS					
High Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E

CINEMAS, TV					
High Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E

DRAPERY, STORES					
High Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E

HOTELS, CATERERS					
High Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E

INDUSTRIALS A-D					
High Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E

S-Z					
High Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E

OILS, GAS					
High Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS					
High Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E

High Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E

High Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E

High Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E

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High Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P/E

High Low	Company	Price	Change	Vol	P
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Nedo supports computer bank for imports

By Our Industrial Editor

A computerized information bank on imports, to help British manufacturers more readily to develop competitive offerings for the home market, was backed yesterday by the National Economic Development Office (Nedo).

Legislative changes affecting the Customs and Excise, to allow more details of individual imports to be disclosed, were proposed in a paper presented to yesterday's meeting of the National Economic Development Council (NEDC) chaired by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor.

The idea, which looks likely to be given a fair wind by the Department of Trade and Industry, could mean a British system akin to one operated in the US and some other countries including Spain and Italy.

Its first proponent was Sir Ronald Halstead, chairman of the knitting sector "little Neddies" at Nedo, who said yesterday: "Our objective is to secure a more efficient market in the United Kingdom through the disclosure of names of import consignees and details of their consignments."

If the system were brought in it would apply to all manufactured goods.

Sir Ronald pointed out that, since nearly a third of goods and services used in Britain are imported, many of the products involved could be supplied more competitively by British makers if only they could find out more about the demand.

Commercially sensitive information about prices and unit values would not be made available.

There could be scope, as in the United States, for a company to ask in an individual case for more details to be suppressed if there were worries over commercial sensitivity.

The increase in market knowledge would mainly benefit British suppliers, British purchasers, shippers and those thinking of entering a specific market, said Sir Ronald.

The cost of running such a computer bank could be

covered by the fees paid by those using it.

In the US the system makes a profit.

Nedo canvassed the views of 24 "little Neddies" on the idea, and half positively supported it with others giving a more mixed response.

Of trade associations and individual companies approached, the weight of opinion was clearly in favour of greater disclosure.

Nedo has put its weight behind the plan, it says, because "while there are some justifiable worries about disclosure they are much outweighed by the potential gains to the economy at large and to firms within it."

The paper adds: "Other countries benefit from disclosures of names of import consignees. The UK should do the same if it does not wish to remain at a competitive disadvantage."

The knitting "little Neddies" looked at the computer bank idea as import penetration in



Seeking efficiency: Halstead

its sector rose. British-based companies now supply 64 per cent of the £2 billion home market, import penetration having increased by 9 per cent since 1980.

The British manufacturers have maintained output in that time by increasing exports by more than half, so they now account for 27 per cent of production.

But import penetration is an even bigger problem in some industry. In footwear domestic manufacturers hold less than 40 per cent of the home market.

Management purchases increase 150% in value terms

Buyouts pass £3bn mark

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

Management buyouts rose 150 per cent in value terms last year, passing the £3 billion level, mainly because the size of deal increased as transaction values trebled compared with 1986.

But prospects for this year are clouded by uncertainties on the stock market, which could mean 1987 will prove to have been a watershed.

This emerges from preliminary figures released yesterday by the Centre for Management Buy-out Research, whose joint director, Mr Mike Wright, admitted that forecasts for 1988 were difficult because of uncertainties in the stock market.

"On the positive side management buyouts currently have an advantage over many corporate acquirers through the ability of management to pay cash," he said.

He also believes that among the big corporate takeovers of

UK MANAGEMENT BUYOUTS			
	Number	Total value (£m)	Average value (£m)
Pre-1982	202	210.2	1.04
1982	197	325.1	1.65
1983	189	304.8	1.61
1984	209	409.7	1.96
1985	225	1104.0	4.92
1986	312	1233.8	3.95
1987	250	3090.0	12.36

the past two years there were many with considerable scope for divestment, while there was also a growing interest among quoted companies to "go private."

But he gives a warning: "These positive aspects must be viewed against the caution of financiers about potential exit routes, difficulties in underwriting large deals and the unclear international economic and financial outlook."

The centre is listing 250 buyouts worth £3.09 billion for 1987, and some smaller ones are expected to come into

the net and increase the totals. This compared with 312 buyouts in 1986, worth £1.233 billion. But the average value of buyouts rose from £3.95 million in 1986 to £12.36 million last year.

The development of the large deal was the key market feature in 1987, culminating in Britain's largest-ever managers' acquisition—the £717.5 million buyout of MFI from Asda, which was linked with the takeover of Hygena, MFI's key supplier.

Among the bigger buyouts last year were Hays Group in

chemicals and transport (value £255 million), Humberdy Investments in financial services (£205 million), Lee International in film lighting (£199 million), Allied Steel and Wire in steel stockholding (£181 million), the Compass Group in industrial catering and health care (£160 million) and International Leisure in package holidays and air charter (£150 million).

Before the stock market crash, when company paper was king in making acquisitions, there were several potential buyouts where managers were squeezed out by highly-rated quoted companies.

But Mr John Coyne, the centre's other joint director, believes the number of buyouts which did succeed improved earlier market fears that price overheating, seen before the stock market crash in October, would place management teams at a noticeable disadvantage to outside bidders.

Growth predicted for delivery firms

By Roland Radt

The rising cost and sophistication of delivering products to the point of sale will mean many more companies "contracting out" responsibility for their distribution services over the next 10 years, according to a report published yesterday.

A detailed assessment of the contract distribution market by NFC Contract Distribution, a division of NFC Distribution Group — Europe's largest retail distribution company — says Britain's leading distribution suppliers are confident of increasing their businesses over the next decade.

Radical delivery changes are already taking place in the brewing industry. Six years ago Whitbread in London and the Home Counties awarded NFC Contract Distribution its on-trade deliveries. Last week, the Boddington Group's brewery division, contracted the whole of its distribution service out to TNT Brewery Distribution.

The NFC report predicts that key factors which are likely to dominate the dis-

tribution industry over the next few years are demands for higher quality temperature control, home shopping and delivery and an increase in shorter-life products.

It says that about 70 per cent of grocery manufacturers and retailers now use some sort of third-party arrangement for deliveries.

To achieve cost reductions and improvements to efficiency, many companies are employing contract distribution. Large retailers have also taken action to rationalize product flow into their stores by taking over distribution responsibility from manufacturers and creating their own large scale warehouses.

Looking at dedicated distribution — the 1988 NFC Contract Distribution report from Stephenson House, Brunel Centre, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK2 2QX.

Microfilm, a leading specialist in training and consultancy in IBM computer operations, has relaunched its company in Britain which could result in 200 new jobs

Winchester Rifle sold for \$8m

Brussels (AP-Dow Jones) — Browning, a subsidiary of Fabrique Nationale Herstal, the Belgian arms and aeronautics company, yesterday said it and a group of US investors had bought the Winchester Rifle business from US Repeating Arms Co for \$8 million (£4.4 million).

The purchase was made as part of a reorganization plan for US Repeating Arms, which is in bankruptcy proceedings, Browning said.

In addition, Browning said it had made its first profit for several years during 1987 — more than \$100 million (£1.61 million), on revenue of more than \$1.7 billion. It did not report the previous year because until January 1, 1987 Browning's results were included with those of FNH.

Browning said it purchased Winchester Rifle to reduce its exposure to dollar fluctuations and to strengthen its international position for the sale of its main product lines — hunting guns and sporting goods. More than half its sales are in the US.

West Germany's economic growth slows down to 1.7%

Frankfurt (Reuters) — The West German economy slowed down in 1987, expanding by only 1.7 per cent, according to official figures released yesterday.

After five years of expansion, demand for goods in West Germany's most powerful economy showed signs of flagging, despite cuts by the US and other nations for the West Germans to boost consumption to help accelerate sluggish worldwide trade.

Confirming the slowdown, the West German Federal Statistics Office said the 1.7 per cent rise in inflation-adjusted terms of gross national product compared with 2.5 per cent in 1986.

Herr Egon Hoelder, the office's president, said an appreciating mark made life increasingly difficult for exporters, and exports stagnated in 1987.

"Thus overall there was scarcely any economic impulse from foreign demand, as

was already the case in 1986," he said. But domestic demand, the main element of growth, also showed signs of flagging.

The rate of growth in private and public sector consumption slowed, investment in construction fell and growth in company investment was little changed.

And if the economy continues to slow down, a government forecast of 1988 growth between 1.5 and 2 per cent will be threatened.

Barr bubbles to £5.3m

By Alexandra Jackson

Capital expenditure of £8 million was authorized during the year for building extensions to works at Atherton and Glasgow and a new canning plant at Atherton.

Barr gave a warning that start-up costs on this line, which will be commissioned in March, and changes in sales and distribution arrangements for smaller retail customers will affect profits in the first half of the current year.

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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

January 14, 1988

Whether it is called a "brain drain" between countries or "poaching" between companies, the time-honoured right of an individual to sell his or her services to the highest bidder is as sacrosanct to executives and professionals as it is the right to strike of the worker. But the latter is being questioned by the avant-garde in the unions in Britain: so perhaps should the former.

Poaching now affects financial services as much as manufacturing industry. There is a major difference between the two areas, however, in that the latter category have an expertise based on long periods of education and training, which continuously needs topping up to stay abreast of and cope with current developments. In the former category a high degree of mental robustness and fast analytical qualities seem the major criteria necessary for success.

Whether these attributes will, in their time, build up the necessity for a sound knowledge and skill base, that can be developed through education and training is yet to be seen, but I suspect it will emerge as time passes.

In one sense, however, it is the knock-on effect of poaching, rather than the poaching itself, that is acting as a brake on the overall development of "UK Ltd", for a major reaction to the poaching is a reluctance to support training and updating programmes.

In a *Challenge to Complacency* written for the Manpower Services Commission and the National Economic Development Office in 1985, the authors, Cooper and Lybrand Associates, indicated that the fear of poaching was less of an inhibitor to training than might be expected. They commented that while many employers thought it would be fairer if there were arrangements to compensate for poaching, it was not clear that those who lost through poaching would train any additional people if they were compensated for such losses.

They did accept, however, that there were some industries and occupations for which the net cost of training is high and the skills are easily transferable. Where these industries are subject to rapid growth leading to a scarce supply of specialist skills, the dangers are that poaching may inhibit training effort thereby reinforcing the shortages.

This was claimed to be the position for electronics engineers then. In such circumstances there may be a need for special arrangements to overcome the problems.

I would argue that the position has worsened since 1985 and other allied subject areas are coming into the picture. Graduate output in relevant areas is moving into under-rather than over-provision, and competition for staff is likely to increase.

Companies are becoming aware that the competitive edge is

Ralph Smith: Personnel poaching is a poor excuse for avoiding training

Industry can learn a few moves from the soccer transfer system



Professor Ralph Smith is director of the CEC Management College, on secondment from the Open University

determined more by the performance of the human brain power in the management and technological fields with training being a major way of improving this performance. Yet there remains a concern about training people for the benefit of other firms who will then poach them.

Probably it is true that major industrial and commercial companies have accepted a training role for other enterprises, providing the level of staff loss is modest. It can, however, take a considerable length of time to replace the knowledge gap.

For example, if a company were to lose 10 per cent of an annual intake in each succeeding year, only half that intake would stay with the company longer than five years. Given that half the know-

ledge in such areas is likely to be obsolete in five years, the return on investment in training appears minimal (since the argument goes that the most highly trained and best performers are the most likely to leave).

Buying in, therefore, make sense. But from whom? If all companies adopt a minimal training approach the pool would be too small. The situation needs a radical solution to encourage the right attitudes in all concerned.

Despite many arguments over the years about loss of individual rights, the Football League clubs have used the transfer system for their top professionals. Perhaps this has lessons for the broader fields of industry, commerce and the professions.

This system seems to have the

ingredients necessary to increase the number of top professionals or experts in the fields required. It recognizes the value of the skills and the training provided; it provides for a signing-on fee to the individual concerned; it includes a system of free transfers; and it has a national body that can act as arbitrator in cases of dispute.

The industry body for registering top talent and arbitrating could be an employers' federation or the appropriate professional institute in the case of computing or electronic experts, although the former may be necessary if sanctions were needed to deter companies tempted to ignore the scheme.

One such sanction could be for the employers' group, including

government departments, not to accept project tenders from companies who did not observe the rules.

Some interesting consequences could arise from the introduction of such a scheme. Whereas, for example, it is customary for large companies to lose staff to small companies, the Football League comparison would imply that small companies could see this as a source of income and profit. Nursing the young "stars" would encourage companies to invest, and have a close interest, in sponsoring students through higher education in a planned way since they would be formally contracted to the company. Career development would also come higher on the agenda at the corporate level.

A necessary consequence of the introduction of such a scheme would be that the value of the professional human resource would be incorporated in the company assets. This in its turn would imply a line in the profit and loss account which would parallel "depreciation" but called more positively "training".

In the same way that buildings and equipment can have different rates for depreciation, so training could be based on the rate of change of knowledge in the professional's field.

In summary, the proposal is based on the premise that professional staff developed to work at peak performance levels are going to be the major source of competitive advantage in the market in the future. The present structure encourages poaching and discourages training by the company and the individual to the general disadvantage of UK Ltd. The introduction of "transfer fees" and "training for depreciation" would reverse the attitudes in both companies and individuals.

Could I suggest that an appropriate Government or employer body takes this up as a matter of some urgency before the shortages referred to in the recent report of the Council for Industry and Higher Education, *Towards a Partnership*, become a self-fulfilling fact?

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Senior Production Management Opportunities

Making biscuits is a big part of our business - we manufacture c.£100 million worth, including the prestigious Fox brand products, the famous Elkes Malted Milk range and much more for retailers' own brands.

Our biscuit manufacturing is labour intensive, relies on flexibility, with short product runs and complex scheduling. Handling own label and company brands means satisfying customers' diverse product, weight and wrapping requirements. Sustaining our renowned quality standards whilst producing efficiently creates demanding production management jobs, and we have two challenging roles to fill:

At Elkes-Uttoxeter - A Factory Manager
responsible to the Production Director for all production activities on the site, where 1,150 people work round the clock producing 650 tonnes of biscuits per week.

At Fox, Batley (West Yorks.) - A Departmental Manager
to establish and run a new and expanding department, producing dedicated chocolate enrobed products on the latest equipment.

If you are aged mid 20's-30's (male or female), have a degree, or equivalent, in a food related or Engineering discipline, coupled with several years' experience in a line management position in the food processing industry, and you think you're a good man manager (a must for us) why not drop us a line telling us about yourself and which job interests you-or just give us a ring? On offer will be a competitive salary and benefits package, including a car.

Please apply to Elizabeth Moss, Personnel Director, Northern Foods Grocery Group, P.O. Box 2, BATLEY, West Yorkshire WF17 5XA. Tel: (0924) 444333.

Northern Foods GROCERY GROUP

DETERMINATION IS THE KEY
£13,000 + Bonus
£20,000 Package

Drake International, the world's leading Recruitment Consultancy, need individuals who are determined to win. You have identified your vital ingredients and utilise them to the full.

In your role at Drake you will interview and match up client and candidate needs, have high objectives for yourself and a career plan in place.

If you fit the bill and can sell your determination to me, then write to:-

Gina Nadler, Area Manager, Drake Personnel, 225, Regent Street, London W1R 8JQ. DRAKE PERSONNEL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

INTERNATIONAL FINANCE COMPANY IS LOOKING FOR SALES PEOPLE
OTE £30k
(£10k basic + Comm. + Car)

We want high-quality hardworking people who want to be part of an exciting young team.

Your job will be to sell subscriptions for a unique invoicing and export sales ledger system to Managing and Financial Directors throughout the UK.

If you are aged 25-30 with a proven track record in sales please call:

SALLY POOLE
01-242 0180
PROGRAMMES RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT Computer Industry.
West of London Excellent Benefits Package (Including Car)

Memorex UK has undergone significant growth over the last twelve months and is committed to continued expansion into the 1990s. A broad product range with the emphasis on quality has resulted in Memorex becoming one of the market leaders in IBM plug compatible peripherals and computer media.

In this exciting and challenging environment, an opportunity has arisen, within our Early Support Group, for a Programme Manager to identify, develop and launch new products. Responsibilities include vendor selection, co-ordination of multi-disciplined project teams and world-wide liaison with Marketing, Customer Service and Corporate Development Groups, to ensure product supply meets market needs.

Applicants, aged 25-45, should be educated to HND/Degree level with at least three years' experience in a product marketing or a technical management role gained within the computer/electronics industry. In addition, self-motivation and first-class communication skills are essential - the ability to influence others and manage change are key requirements.

Our first-class benefits package includes a competitive salary, performance related bonus, and choice of company car (with private fuel) and medical insurance.

Write with full CV, or telephone for further information to Mike Walshe, Personnel Manager, Memorex UK Limited, Memorex House, 96-104 Church Street, Staines, Middlesex TW16 4UX. Telephone: Staines (0784) 51488.

MEMOREX

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
'False Promises'. Broken Promises'

Do these quotes sound painfully familiar to you?
At Challoners, dealing in false promises is not a practice that we subscribe to. It isn't fair to you, and it isn't fair to us.

But, if you are ambitious, sales motivated, hungry for success and possess the ability to communicate effectively with both job seekers and clients alike, then your promise will be recognised as you progress within our fast developing recruitment consultancy.

Contact Julia Macmillan now for further information on
626 8315
Challoners Recruitment Consultants

01-481 4481

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

01-481 4481

DIRECTOR
THE CHARTERED SOCIETY OF
DESIGNERS

Applications are invited for the post of Director of The Chartered Society of Designers to take up appointment at the beginning of April. The Society is the chartered institution representing the interests of over 8000 professional designers working principally for industry and commerce in the UK and overseas. Its present annual budget approaches £1m. Following the grant of its Royal Charter in 1976, and a move into new central London headquarters in 1987, the Society is poised for the next stage of its development through membership growth, a range of in-career training programmes, and a variety of benefit oriented income generating activities. The Director is responsible to the Society's President and Council for advising on and implementing policy over the broad range of the Society's activities and is supported by a secretariat staff of 24. The successful candidate will therefore need strong management, marketing and financial skills, and the ability to represent the Society in the UK and abroad. The salary will be negotiable at c.£25k. For further details of this post, which involves working with the educational establishment, government institutions, creative individuals and the design industry, apply in complete confidence, enclosing full curriculum vitae, to the President, The Chartered Society of Designers, 29 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3EG.

ENGINEERING DIRECTOR

to £27,000
plus car

Herts.

LBW

LOCKYER, BRADSHAW & WILSON LIMITED
A member of the Addison Brothers Group Ltd

We are seeking an Engineering Director to join the Management Board of a medium sized UK company with an international business in transportation control systems.

To fill this post we would expect you to be a Chartered Engineer aged 30-40 with five years' senior management experience embracing development, production, and support services in electronics and computing.

You would be accountable for the cost effective management of an engineering department of over 50 staff, including drawing office and computer bureau services. Your key technical responsibilities would include microprocessor based products for use in poor climatic and electromagnetic environments, through to multi-computer local area networks incorporating advanced adaptive control strategies.

Sharp skills in electronic engineering design and software project management are essential, together with the ability to make sound commercial and marketing decisions regarding technical products in our field. Clear and confident formulation and presentation of technical policy is necessary within the company, and in representing it in the UK and abroad.

In the first instance, please write with career details to Mike Fenning, Director, CRS 517, Lockyer, Bradshaw & Wilson Limited, FREEPOST, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5BR.

Please list any organisations to whom you do not wish your application forwarded.

Rapid progress
to Sales
Management

WITH PROCTER & GAMBLE

■ Are you a recent graduate fulfilling your promise while others break theirs? Has your initial career choice proved to be something of a disappointment? Then why not talk to us?

■ Ambitious graduates who joined us about a year or so ago are already handling their first management responsibilities. They are people who set demanding goals and achieve them, enjoy solving problems and succeed in influencing others. If this sounds like you, you can expect excellent individually tailored training, rapid advancement solely on merit, a totally professional working environment and the backing of a blue chip market leader with over 150 years' FMCG experience, whose reputation is underlined by such household names as Ariel, Fairy Liquid, Head & Shoulders, Oil of Ulay and many other well known products.

■ Add to that a highly competitive remuneration package - including first class salary, a car and other valuable benefits - and your future looks very bright indeed.

■ If you're ready to progress to Sales Management, please telephone or write for an application form to Mr J. C. Scott, Sales Recruitment Manager, Procter & Gamble Ltd, PO Box 1EE, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE99 1EE, telephone (091) 279 2234.

THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF
ST BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL
(UNIVERSITY OF LONDON)
WEST SMITHFIELD,
LONDON, EC1A 7BE

Assistant
Finance Officer
(Research)Administrative Grade 3 -
£17,738 - £20,738
(incl. London Allowance)

Applications are invited for this new post, which has been created to assist the Finance Officer in the further development of the Research activities of the College, from individuals who are professionally qualified (or CIB). Applicants should have a particular interest in Commercial Law and possibly have practical experience of academic research work.

Further details may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, at the above address (or telephone 01-406 7404) to whom written applications in the form of a full CV with the names and addresses of two referees should be made by 5th February 1988.



MIM BRITANNIA

UNIT TRUST DEALERS/ADVISERS

MIM Britannia Unit Trust Managers Limited, one of the largest U.K. unit trust companies, is relocating its direct marketing and sales division to new offices in Reigate, Surrey. We are seeking to recruit experienced unit trust dealers and advisers to be part of this crucial new development.

Prospective candidates should have a thorough knowledge of the unit trust industry and between one and three years experience in a dealing environment.

The role will involve advising the public on group products and market trends and guiding investors in their decision making. Thorough and on-going investment training will be given.

A competitive salary is offered, together with an attractive range of benefits, including subsidised mortgage and non-contributory pension scheme.

Please apply in writing enclosing a full curriculum vitae to:

THE PERSONNEL MANAGER, MIM BRITANNIA LIMITED,
11 DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, LONDON EC2M 4TR.

Company Secretarial
Assistant

to £15,000

Surrey

This is an excellent opportunity to join the holding company of an International Group of companies involved in the provision of construction related services, several of which are market leaders in their field. The Group has enjoyed considerable expansion and increased profitability in recent years. Current turnover, following recent acquisitions, is currently running at approximately £430m.

Reporting to the Group Company Secretary, you will help provide an efficient secretarial service to the Group and assist with the ongoing development of administrative procedures. The department's responsibilities include statutory and legal compliance, acquisitions, employee benefits, banking, property and intellectual property matters. Allocation of duties will initially depend on experience and ability with the opportunity of developing both over a period of time.

In your twenties you are a graduate or finalist of the ICSEA, with some relevant experience gained in a commercial environment. You are a good communicator with a flexible approach to administration, and are keen to contribute to the smooth running of a small busy office. Please write - in confidence - with full cv and current salary to Lynne Stevens, ref. A21191. MSL Chartered Secretary, 52 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0AW.

LLL
MSL Chartered Secretary

Investment
Management
Middle East

A successful applicant will eventually report to the Group Board Directors and his responsibilities will include the following:

1. Manage a small department for substantial investment overseas.
2. The department is responsible for producing statistical information to allow for the monitoring of performance of portfolio managers in different financial centres who have discretionary management.
3. The holding of periodic meetings with the portfolio managers to discuss and decide investment strategy and policy.
4. Follow equity, bond and currency markets to enable immediate action to be taken to take advantage of possible future movements in the market.
5. To appraise investment opportunities for further investment and present suitably to the directors.
6. To supervise the legal accounting and administrative responsibility of a number of off-shore companies.

Applicants should hold an accountancy qualification or an economics degree.

Situated in an attractive and stable Middle East country, the rewards include a tax free salary in the region of £19,000 in local currency, a provident fund, generous car and education allowances, free furnished accommodation and annual leave.

Applications to Box No. C56.

Replies marked private & Confidential should be forwarded to:
The General Manager, Kazuo Group Ltd, 1 Balfour Place, London W1Y 5RE

DEC/VAX, VMS 'C'
PROJECT LEADER
SECURITIES TRADING SYSTEMS
CITY to £60K

Our Client is a world leader in the International Financial Services Industry and part of a US \$120 billion parent company.

Planned expansion has created the need for a talented and ambitious Project Leader to manage a small London-based team reporting to the New York Head Office.

The successful applicant will have a solid (min. 2 years) technical background in DEC VAX, VMS applications with knowledge of 'C' PROGRAMMING, as well as sound business experience in TRADING SYSTEMS ANALYSIS (particularly FIXED INCOME TRADING).

A strong self starter, you will liaise extensively between traders and sales people in the design through to implementation of new instruments. You should possess an EXCELLENT ACADEMIC RECORD (BSC/MSc WITH SCIENTIFIC BIAS) as well as significant technical and managerial prowess.

In return, our client offers excellent salary + benefits commensurate with experience and the opportunity to play a major role in exciting new development projects.



To apply or discuss further, please call ANNE HUTCHINSON today on 01-630 6643 between 2pm & 6pm or during office hours on 01-935 9664, or write to her enclosing full cv at ACSIS Inc. 77a Wigmore Street London W1H 9JL.

SMMT
COMMITTEE
SECRETARY

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders Limited has been representing the interests of the motor industry in Britain since 1902.

A vacancy now exists for a Committee Secretary. Reporting to the Assistant Secretary, your main responsibility will be to ensure that the Society's Trade Section Committees and Working Parties operate, and are serviced, effectively. This will involve the drafting of papers, minutes and action notes and liaising with members, Government departments and other external bodies where necessary.

You should be educated to at least 'A' level standard and have had a minimum of three years experience servicing committees. (Typing and shorthand are not essential).

Starting salary is circa £12,000 pa, with benefits to include contributory pension scheme, BUPA and subsidised canteen. Please write with full career details to Mrs A. Jones, SMMT, Forbes House, Halkin Street, London SW1X 7DS.

Property Development
PROJECT
MANAGEMENT

First Class Salary + Car + Benefits London

We are a highly successful and rapidly expanding property development company. This Company is part of a major Plc and current projects include commercial, retail and high-tech developments to give a total development portfolio with a value in excess of £750m. Further expansion of our activities has created an additional requirement for a Contracts Administrator.

Candidates, ideally aged 23-28 years, whose careers have included a period in a professional discipline will be of particular interest. This appointment requires the experience and ability to motivate and control all parties involved in the development process from inception to completion.

This position offers excellent career prospects in a highly stimulating and rewarding environment. In addition to a competitive salary, the benefits package offered includes a profit related bonus, company car and medical and pension scheme membership.

Please write in strict confidence enclosing a curriculum vitae and a note of your current salary to:

Miss J. Parkinson, 25, Hill Street, London W1X 7FB

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

required by expanding international company in the waste water treatment field, to sell market leading product throughout the UK.

The successful applicant will probably be in the 25-40 age group, with a good track record in the water treatment industry, preferably with a knowledge of polyethylene pipes. Ideally located in the Midlands he/she will be educated to at least G.C.E. 'O' level standard.

Benefits include above average negotiable salary, incentive scheme, company estate car, pension scheme and the opportunities for real advancement in a growth company.

C.V. in first instance to D M Taylor, Managing Director, Saxon Ltd, 3 Commercial Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 3DE.

PERSONNEL OFFICERS

£15-18,000

We are currently working on two very similar personnel assignments. Both are permanent roles, it will require professional O.D. status. They involve recruitment, development and welfare of support staff as well as all aspects of personnel administration. Each is an unusually interesting opportunity.

If you have a good understanding of secretaries and two years experience in personnel management we would like to hear from you. Please ring, Barry Tate.

01-408 0424

Tate
APPOINTMENTS

GEOLOGIST

Exploration company requires Geologist to work in the Philippines. Applicant must be experienced in gold exploration with emphasis on geochemistry and drill supervision. Field-oriented position so single status preferred.

Reply to: Exploration Manager, Kennam Resources PLC, 87-89 Pembroke Road, Dublin 4, Ireland.

SALES CAREER
c.£30,000

A Financial Holdings company has 3 new positions in its SW London office for Account Executives and Account Initiators within its sales and marketing division.

You will be between 20 and 30 years of age and have a good education and possibly from an options or futures background although applicants without experience will be considered as full training is provided.

You will be negotiating directly at the highest level with clients for participation in the unique concept of property syndication.

These are permanent prestigious positions with unlimited scope for improvement and promotion with exceptional rewards.

For further details please contact
The Recruitment Officer

01 940 9141

John Hill Investments PLC

Suite 15

London House

243-253 Lower Mortlake Road

Richmond, Surrey TW9 2LL

Residential Property
Negotiators

urgently required,

London Docklands,

Apply: Matthew Quirk, Parris & Quirk,
Glengall Bridge Development Sales
Offices, Millharbour, London E14. 01-987 4473.

Parris & Quirk are members of the
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honest, single-
minded, intelligent,
imaginative, clear
thinking, enthusiastic
and are going to make
something of life,

Call
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Reply to
Box No A28

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We are a fledgling company looking for a young Driver-Salesperson (18-23). Enthusiasm and good character essential. Excellent prospects offered to the right person. Own use of company vehicle. Is this you?

Ring Antonio on:
01-385 2637

6pm-9pm or 01-371 0264 (answer phone)

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REQUIRED IMMEDIATELY

One of London's leading independent Estate Agencies offer a superb opportunity in Sloane Square. Furnished lettings, permanent. Applicants should have a minimum of 6 months experience in this field. Please call Carol or Loren on 01-406 5871 for more details. Rec. con

Sales &
Marketing
Challenge

Fast growing international fresh food group of private companies based in North-West England, seek to appoint high calibre experienced sales and marketing operator to head up UK division. Current top level key account experience essential, coupled with recent success in new product introduction in UK grocery trade. Appropriate package tailored to suit right candidate, including progression to wider responsibilities within the group. Please write in confidence to Bill Marlow of Marlow Wade & Partners, Tollgate House, High Street, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 2SL, who are handling appointment.

FOX EXECUTIVE
APPOINTMENTS
34A MARKET SQUARE,
ROCHESTER, CROXON CR2 7AA
OPERATIONS MANAGER CIB - 700
For further details please write to:
FOX EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS, 34A Market Square,
Rochester, Croxson CR2 7AA. Tel: 01622 555555. Fax: 01622 555555. Email: fox@executive-appointments.co.uk

01-481 4481

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

01-481 4481

Senior P.C. Technician

Circa £17,000

Reigate, Surrey

We are a successful insurance company with a wide range of quality products. Crusader is firmly established in the Life Assurance, Private Health Care and Group Pension Scheme Sectors of the Insurance Market.

Within the development programme, the organisation and methods team has a crucial role to play. This requires the appointment of a Senior P.C. Technician to head up a small team of P.C. Support Analysts. Reporting to the Business Consultant you will be responsible for the evaluation of P.C. hardware and software packages and development of bespoke application software using a variety of specialist tools. This position provides significant scope for personal advancement within the organisation.

We require an ambitious professional aged around 30, who has extensive experience with P.C.'s including development work using dBase III+ and Lotus 123 (advanced macros/command language). Business analysis skills, practised in the financial sector would also be a distinct advantage. A minimum of 3-5 years' experience in this field is required. You will also need a clean, current driving licence.

In addition to an excellent salary a relocation package will be offered where necessary, along with non-contributory pension/healthcare schemes and mortgage assistance.

For an initial discussion telephone The Personnel Department on Reigate (0737) 242424 or write, enclosing a detailed CV, to: Crusader Insurance PLC, Reigate, Surrey RH2 8SL.

Crusader is an equal opportunity employer and a member of the CIGNA Group of Companies.

CULTIVATING EXCELLENCE

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

BIRMINGHAM

£15,000-£30,000 Package

Badenoch & Clark is the largest independent consultancy, active in all areas of Accountancy, Legal, Banking, Financial Services and Insurance recruitment, both permanent and temporary, throughout the U.K.

As part of our planned expansion for 1988, we are seeking to appoint a Temporary Controller for our well-established Birmingham Office. Applicants should be ambitious with the commitment and enthusiasm to contribute within a successful team environment. Candidates, either with or without previous recruitment experience, should be able to demonstrate considerable communication and marketing skills.

In addition to basic salary and profit share, our range of benefits includes a non-contributory pension scheme, bonus and company car after a qualifying period.

For further details please contact Sue Wootley on 021-631 4211 (day) or 021-426 3484 (evenings and weekends). All enquiries will be treated in the strictest confidence.

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THE FINANCIAL & LEGAL RECRUITMENT SERVICES

NEVILLE HOUSE, 14 WATERLOO STREET

BIRMINGHAM B2 5DL

BUSINESS INFORMATION SERVICES

OTE £25,000 + car

Sales Executive to sell on-line financial information services to the business sector. Aged 25-35 you will have a proven sales record and preferably an understanding of computer technology and its application in the business world.

SOFTWARE SALES OTE £20,000

A bright, young graduate with proven sales ability or IBM mainframe experience, you will be responsible for selling a new product across the UK. Ambitious to reach management level by age 25.

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If you have at least six months' successful telesales experience, this company can offer you an exciting opportunity to sell hi-tech training and consultancy services to major blue-chip organisations. Excellent career prospects.

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT OTE £18,000 + car

A territory Sales Executive with at least six months' sales experience in any industry, preferably capital equipment to take responsibility for developing business for a small range of security products.

Please contact Maggie Lawrence or Carol Mutton.

SALES & MARKETING APPOINTMENTS
7 PRINCES STREET, W.1. 01-629 7262

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Our own Consultants are of the highest calibre, maintaining both the professional standards & drive to succeed in a competitive market. We plan to make 1988 a year of expansion - we will be opening further branches in Central and Greater London.

If you are interested in a career within the Recruitment industry, a professional company whose commitment to quality is unmatched, & if you have energy, flair with people and commitment to getting results then we would like to talk to you.

Your age, background, experience & qualifications will be neither a restriction nor a guarantee of success. Please phone Andrew or Alan on 481-2345.

ACCOUNTANCY CAREERS LTD

51 Fincham Road, London EC4M 4RT. Tel: 01-481 2345

52 New Bond Street, London W1W 4LA. Tel: 01-481 2346

A/C CAREERS

Burgess GROUP

GROUP LEADER FOR R & D FACILITY TO BE ENGAGED ON HARDWARE/SOFTWARE MICROPROCESSOR BASED ELECTRONIC MODULES AND SYSTEMS

SAIA AG a Swiss based company, a subsidiary of Burgess Group PLC, design and manufacture precision electronic and electro mechanical equipment. As part of our vigorous expansion plans we require a young well qualified electronic R & D group leader to help establish and manage approximately 5 electronic hardware/software engineers in a new facility to be located in the South of England. Reporting to the R & D director in Switzerland, the successful applicant will be responsible for the development of allocated projects from the specification phase through to the introduction to manufacturing stage.

The understanding of the following applied technologies is essential:

- Microprocessor-based electronic systems in single- and multi-processor configurations.
- Digital and analog interface modules to sensors and actuators.
- Small to medium size real-time software for short reaction times (MC 68 000 assembler).
- Complex software written in C, implementing a modern user-interface on personal computers.
- Special purpose hard and software for interfaces to local area networks.

The person appointed will hold a University Degree in Electronic Engineering and have professional experience, together with a solid background in software engineering. Supervisory experience of at least 3 years in the development department of a relevant electronics company is desirable.

Although not essential, a working knowledge of the German or French language would be an advantage.

Written applications, together with a detailed C.V., in the first instance to be forwarded to: Mr. J.B. Elwell, Managing Director, Saia Division, Burgess Group PLC, Fleming Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire LE10 3DU.



RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

Further expansion demands that we appoint another dynamic and enthusiastic achiever to our public practice division. You should have accountancy experience or be a graduate with sales/business experience or be an experienced recruiter.

Preferred age 24-28. Package will be £17,000 to £30,000 + car option. We offer a supportive environment, bonus scheme and profit share. Excellent career prospects exist within a developing group recruiting accountants for Public Practice, Commerce and the City.

If you would like to work in a professional but entrepreneurial environment write in confidence or telephone Brian Ingram, Managing Director, on 01-629 3555.

Brian Ingram Associates
70/71 New Bond Street, London W1 9DE

ASTUTE GRADUATES WITH UP TO 2 YEARS EXPERIENCE FAST FORWARD WITH F.T.G.!

You're single-minded. You know what you want. And after about 2 years experience since graduating your objectives are now even clearer. You now want to join a company that inspires you to succeed and provides the intellectual challenge you want.

At Forward Trust Group we compete successfully in the world of Corporate Finance, working closely with companies in the purchase of capital equipment. The environment is fast moving and competitive but supported by innovative products and first rate computer systems.

We're now offering exciting opportunities in the Finance Industry. By joining one of our Business Centre teams you will quickly become involved in the marketing of finance products, supporting our sales executives in their negotiations with customers, and learning how finance and industry work together. Opportunities are available throughout our national network including the Home Counties, the West Midlands and the North.

Currently you are probably now working in Sales, Finance, Banking or Accountancy; you must be articulate, confident, and resilient with a desire to succeed. We will provide a structured training

programme that will take you forward quickly, a competitive salary and benefits package which will include a preferential mortgage scheme.

We shall commit ourselves to providing a change of job within 12-18 months - promotion to a Sales Executive role would mean a Company Car.

As an Equal Opportunities employer, our vacancies are open to people regardless of sex or ethnic origin.

You should apply in writing requesting an application form and stating your preferred location to: P.D. Smith, Personnel Manager, Resourcing, Forward Trust Group, 145 City Road, London EC1V 1JY.



WHITEHEAD MANN

c. £15,000
RESEARCH CONSULTANT/ TRAINEE HEADHUNTER

Whitehead Mann is a leading British-owned international executive search consultancy. Continuing growth demands the appointment of a lively, intelligent, commercially aware research consultant/trainee headhunter. He/she must be a self-starter, willing to take early responsibility and able to enjoy the pressures of a fast moving, demanding work environment. Preferred age 23/28; graduate.

Please write with full details to: Chris Burrows
Whitehead Mann Limited
44 Welbeck Street, London W1M 7HF
telephone: 01-935 8978

A Change of Direction

If your career is at a dead end and you are considering a change of direction, this could be the opportunity you are looking for.

Opportunities exist for self assured people with ability and business acumen to train for a career within the financial services industry. Exciting opportunities for personal success and career development are linked with excellent training and the prospect of a very high income.

Without obligation, find out about our direction. Please phone Keith Peat on 01 439 4050 (London and Home Counties only).

Allied Dunbar Assurance plc is an equal opportunities Group. Applications are welcome regardless of sex, marital status, ethnic origin or disability.

Sullivan Thomas

ESTATE AGENTS • SURVEYORS • VALUERS

Residential Sales Negotiator

Required for busy Fulham Estate Agent's Office. Self-motivation, sense of humour and outgoing personality are all essential.

Please write to Robert Thomas, Sullivan Thomas, 361 Fulham Palace Road, SW6 6TA, enclosing CV.

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

Exciting opportunity for an experienced and self-motivated Recruitment Consultant to join our privately owned consultancy. Non-smoker would be preferred, but not essential. This is a challenging and well rewarded career for someone ambitious, well spoken and well presented. On budget earnings (average 5 placements per month) c.£25,000 pa with no limits. Definite career prospects into management with possible share of equity.

Susan Beck RECRUITMENT 01-584 6242

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PENSIONS ADMINISTRATION MANAGER EAST LONDON

Circa £16,000 plus car

The Meyer International Group Pension Scheme is contributory with a self-administered fund currently valued at over £150 million. There are some 7,000 members and over 2,600 pensioners.

We are seeking a Pensions Administration Manager who, reporting direct to the Group Pensions Manager, will be responsible to him for the day-to-day administration of the department. Specific duties will include: liaison with subsidiary companies located throughout the UK; supervising the maintenance of members, leavers and pensioners' computerised records; checking and controlling benefit payments; calculating pension options for retiring members and dependants of deceased members, and the control of the Fund's account books and ledgers. The holder of the appointment will also be expected to prepare draft annual accounts for the Scheme.

The successful candidate will be an associate of the PMI with some practical experience at supervisory level of computer systems, payrolls and pension fund accounts.

Applicants should have at least ten years' experience in the Pensions Department of a public company operating a self-administered Pension Scheme.

Applications with full CV should be sent to the Personnel Manager, Meyer International plc, Villiers House, 41-47 Strand, London WC2N 5JG by not later than Friday 26 February 1988.



Meyer International

New Company Formation

We are seeking to appoint 10-12 new sales executives.

Applicants should be aged between 23 - 30. No previous experience required as full training given.

Call our Centre Point office on:
01-240 0622

British Aggregate Construction Materials Industries DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY

BACMI - the national trade federation for the aggregate, bituminous coated materials and ready-mixed concrete industries - requires a Director and Secretary.

Responsibilities include all the normal company secretarial functions and administration but also a role in the management of BACMI and in the representation of member interests to a wide range of third parties. For this reason some understanding of the political process is highly desirable.

The ideal background is a degree and a legal qualification together with relevant experience in the industry and/or a trade association. We would welcome evidence of successful leadership so that the appointed individual could be considered as deputy, and potentially successor, to the present Director-General.

The expected age range is between 35 and 40 and the commencing salary will be between £25,000 and £30,000 per annum. Other benefits will include contributory pension, permanent health insurance and a car.

Candidates are invited to write in complete confidence with a detailed CV to

Mr R H Phillips, OBE
Director General, BACMI
156 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 9TR

INTERNATIONAL FOREX AND BULLION HOUSE

Requires

EQUITY SALES a number of opportunities exist for confident closers interested in the financial markets. But not necessarily with equity experience. We offer full training, good promotional possibilities and an attractive remuneration package, inside a highly successful working environment.

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Contact

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Food Plant Manager Benelux

Fast growing meat group in Benelux seeks experienced Plant Manager for extensive bacon operation. Particular experience in mechanical applications, and product development for UK market required. The successful candidate will become a technical member of the Group Management Team. An attractive reward package will be designed, and assistance given with relocation and language learning. Applicants should write with CV in the first instance to Bill Hartfordshire AL5 2SL.

SALES MANAGER

for UK based Korean import/export firm. Knowledge of construction materials, Korean construction industry and Korean products essential. At least 3 years experience. Must speak Korean and English. Salary £20,000.
Contact Mr M. Chang, Foremost (UK) Corp.
Silbury Court, 356 Silbury Boulevard,
Milton Keynes, MK9 2LR.
Tel: 0908 668324.

ASST. to Director - Florida Economic Development. London office requires an expert in the Director to work in development for the Florida Trade and Investment programme within the UK. Applicants must have a thorough knowledge of Florida and be familiar with the procedures of State Government and have a clear understanding of the Florida's target industries. Applicants must be educated to degree level in Business Studies or relevant field and have at least 5 years' work experience in these areas. A friendly, honest, energetic and professional manner is essential. Application with CV should be sent to: Michael Sheehy, Consultants, 15-24 Woodhouse Grove, London W2 2NL.

مركز العمل

01-481 4481

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

01-481 4481

Honeywell Bull is the world's foremost multi national computer manufacturer. Our Business Services Division provides the Group with a constant and invaluable stream of management information. The division is staffed by some of the most innovative, talented and dedicated people in the business, all working to provide quality services and business solutions throughout Honeywell Bull in the UK and Eire.

To further improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our Business Services Division, we now wish to recruit the following:-

SENIOR BUSINESS ANALYSTS

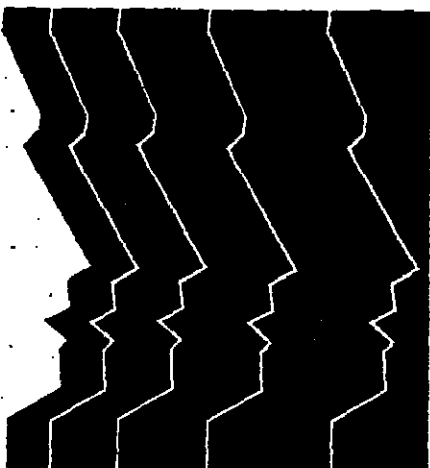
Capable of delivering creative and practical solutions to business problems, you will need a sound knowledge of developing applications systems. You will have gained considerable experience in either Finance, Sales or Marketing based developments and appreciate the techniques involved in using development standards, 4GL's, structured methodologies and communications.

You will also possess excellent personal communication skills and be able to undertake strategic and tactical studies.

PROJECT MANAGERS

You will have proven skills in project control techniques and the ability to organise a demanding, varied workload. You will be familiar with critical path analysis and other project control techniques and may have experience of PC-based tools such as PMW. Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to listen to problems, produce and implement both relevant and effective solutions is vital.

Take the first simple step by telephoning Anna Donnelly between 9 am and 5 pm on 01-568 3229 or by leaving a message after office hours. Alternatively, send your CV to Anna at Honeywell Bull Ltd, Honeywell House, Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 9DF.



BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION

SENIOR BUSINESS ANALYSTS AND PROJECT MANAGERS - UP TO £25,000 + CAR

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Honeywell Bull

Logistics Consultants

A.T. Kearney is the leading international management consultancy in logistics. We cover the total logistics chain from sourcing through manufacturing to physical distribution. A major part of A.T. Kearney's work is helping industry and commerce to confront the challenges of performance and competitiveness.

In order to support our current rate of growth we require additional consultants with experience in one of the following areas:

- Total Logistics Concepts
- Just-in-Time
- Sourcing and EDI
- Physical Distribution

Our need is for people aged 25 to 38 with a good degree, who can identify and manage radical operational changes. We are particularly interested in applicants with food/processing or consumer durables industry experience, although this will not preclude candidates with relevant experience in other industries.

If you meet our exacting requirements, the remuneration package will not be a problem. If you would like to link your success with ours, please contact, quoting reference ST/10/1:

Glye Hodson, Director or Ray Jewitt, Director
A.T. Kearney Limited, Stockley House,
130 Wilton Road, London, SW1 1LQ.
Telephone: 01-834 6886

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Required as Driver-Guides to overseas visitors in London & Europe. Applicants, aged 23 - 45, must own (or have use of) 4-door car and live (or have base in) Central London. Full-time guaranteed work. Free training.

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11 Ubridge Street, W8. 01-221 5475

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Excellent 2 year married status contract for professionally qualified and well experienced statistician. Power industry NW Saudi Arabia.

Send CV to L.I.C., 81 Medfield Street, London, SW15 4JY

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Responsible A-level/University educated person, in their 20s required for metal industry. With previous experience in this challenging and exciting field, you will bring a knowledge of computers, Spanish also advantageous. Benefits include medical scheme, pension scheme, 4 weeks holiday, L.I.C.

Please contact Miss Walker on 01 240 0221

POLITICS AND PR IN EUROPE

Graduate Research Assistant required. Must be able to write well, speak a foreign language, type and take dictation, be free to travel and have at least 2 years work experience. Salary negotiable.

Send CV to MEP Research Services
23 Golden Square
London W1R 3PA.

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Offering an exciting and rewarding career, complete security and real opportunity. Full training, excellent prospects and career growth. Suitable applicants, aged between 24 and 40, can be employed in the UK and abroad. Telephone: 01-404 6873 (Freefone 2995).

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Stimulating job in Mayfair tourist office. Would suit young person with initiative and outgoing personality. Some weekend work involved. Call Maggie 01-629 5267

ENGINEERING

Ergonomists/Engineers

Applications are invited from suitably qualified ergonomists and engineers with the CEGB's Generation Development and Construction Division. Vacancies exist at the Division's Headquarters at Barnwood, Gloucester and at the Sizewell 'B' Project Management Team, located at Booter's Hall, Nuffield, Oxfordshire which has been established by the CEGB in conjunction with the National Nuclear Corporation.

The Ergonomics Group, Divisional Headquarters, Gloucester. The Ergonomics Group comprises both ergonomists and engineers working closely together and supports both new projects and operational power stations. It is concerned with the development, assessment and application of various aspects of the man-machine interface for central control rooms and other areas in power stations. The work includes:-

- Analysis and documentation of system requirements, particularly those relating to human interaction and performance.
- The production of functional specifications, standards and guides.
- The design of computer-based and conventional information systems and desks.
- The application and assessment of advanced MMI components and systems and of expert system techniques.
- The development and application of human error reduction techniques and of new methodologies and systems.
- The design and presentation of operating procedure information.
- The commissioning of human performance studies.

Systems and Safety Branch, Sizewell 'B' PMT. The Human Factors Engineering Group is responsible for human-engineering operator interfaces throughout the Sizewell plant and is involved in the development and application of human engineering principles using advanced technology. Support is provided from the Board's extensive engineering capabilities and by external contact with Research Institutes, Universities and Consultants.

It is desirable that applicants possess a relevant degree, together with appropriate post-qualification experience in the application of human factors technology to the design of large-scale systems. In addition corporate membership of relevant institutions or societies would be advantageous. Appropriate training will be given where necessary to enable successful applicants to integrate with the work of the group. The salary for these appointments will be made within either the First or Second Engineer Grade of the National Joint Board Agreement, depending upon qualifications and experience.

First Engineer £16,741-£20,602 per annum
Second Engineer £12,984-£17,255 per annum

In addition, benefits commensurate with employment within a large organisation are offered, together with relocation assistance in appropriate cases. Application forms, obtainable from the Personnel Branch, CEGB, GD & CD, Barnet Way, Barnwood, Gloucester, GL4 7TS (telephone Gloucester 0452 652011 - 9 am to 5 pm) should be completed and returned not later than 28th January 1988. Envelopes and correspondence should be marked 'Confidential' and quote vacancy reference number 32/67/DT.

The interviews for these appointments will be held on 18th February 1988.

The CEGB is an equal opportunity employer.



CENTRAL ELECTRICITY GENERATING BOARD
GENERATION DEVELOPMENT & CONSTRUCTION DIVISION

ENGINEERING

Opportunities for: Engineers Scientists Technologists

Pira is the UK Technical Centre for the Packaging Industries. We are engaged in contract and sponsored research, consultancy, testing and training activities. Our Research Group - which is working on a number of exciting projects concerning the use of plastics and paper/board materials in packaging - is expanding, and is now seeking to make several new key staff appointments:-

Engineering Manager - to lead and develop a new section which will provide engineering services to Pira's Packaging Division and its clients.

Senior/Principal Scientists - to take leading roles in new research projects, and to develop consultancy business.

Analytical Chemist - to carry out analytical work - including test development - for our clients.

Research Assistant - to assist senior staff in a variety of projects.

Applicants should have a degree or HNC in a relevant subject and, for the senior positions, several years' experience in the packaging, plastics processing or paper/board industries are desirable.

Good conditions of employment and contribution towards essential relocation.

In the first instance, applicants should write with c.v. to Richard Innes, Packaging Division Director, Pira, Handalls Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 7RU.

OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT POWER GENERATION

Our Client is presently providing O&M support for the Yambo Power Generation, Distribution & Desalination Plant in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Qualified personnel are URGENTLY required to fill the following positions:-

- CHIEF ELECTRICAL & INSTRUMENTATION ENGINEER - BSc. Elect. Eng. Design experience in Power Plants. 3 yrs in supervisory position required.

- CHIEF PERFORMANCE ENGINEER - BSc. Mech. or Chemical Eng. Multi-Disciplinary background. 5 years Plant performance exp. required.

- MAINTENANCE ENGINEER - BSc. Elect. or Mech. Eng. Electrical utility maintenance experience. 5 years supervisory position in Power Systems maintenance.

- MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT - BSc. Elect. or Mech. Eng. or Technical Training. 5-10 years exp. in Power Plant maintenance. 10 years at supervisory level. Desalination experience desired.

- MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR - BSc. Mech. - Electrical Utility. Emphasis on Steam Plant maintenance.

- OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR - Degree in Engineering. Utility Plant Operations experience. 2 years of direct supervision of similar department for an Electrical Utility. 5 years supervisory experience.

This is an outstanding employment opportunity. Please send your C.V. to: Systemford Limited, Ardene House, 41-55, Perth Road, Gants Hill, Ilford, Essex. IG2 6BX. Tel no: 01 518 3000.

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If you are aged under 30, preferably a graduate, reside in London or within easy travelling distance, and consider that you possess the necessary qualifications and experience to self advertising space in our titles, please write in full confidence, enclosing your C.V., to:

Christopher Barry, Advertisement Director
NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LTD
PO Box 481, 1 Virginia Street, LONDON E1 9BD

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We wish to recruit an experienced and established Recruitment Consultant, who will be expected to develop his or her own Client Portfolio.

The ideal person would have a minimum of five years experience in the Recruitment of Contract and Permanent staff and demonstrate a record of success on Commercial or Industry, either in specialised areas or in the General Market.

Earnings are negotiable with future potential very much up to the individual. You will be working for 'Freeco' a subsidiary of Alan Freeman Engineering Company Limited, already well established as Consulting Engineers, Designers & Constructors.

We would like to hear from you if you believe that you fit this bill. Contact us on 0277 623163 or write to:

Freeco Staff Services Ltd,
Personnel Consultants,
The Stable, Crown Yard,
Wareham, Dorset. BH21 9BT.

INTERNATIONAL RUBBER STUDY GROUP

An Administrator is required who will be responsible to the Secretary-General for the efficient operation of the IRSG Secretariat in W.I. The post requires skills in:

Office management
Financial control and book-keeping in trial balance
Organisation of conferences locally and abroad
Taking minutes of Committee meetings
Use of personal computers

The right applicant will have the appropriate administrative skills and personality to work with a small international team (nine people). Knowledge of an additional European language would be an advantage.

The salary will be negotiable in the region of £14,000 per annum. Benefits include contributions to a Staff Pension Fund and house-free rent. Applications with CV should be sent to Mrs J. Quinn, IRSG, 7 Albemarle Street, London W1X 8NF by 28 January 1988.

For further details, contact: Mrs J. Quinn, IRSG, 7 Albemarle Street, London W1X 8NF. Tel: 01-493 2000.

For further details, contact: Mrs J. Quinn, IRSG, 7 Albemarle Street, London W1X 8NF. Tel: 01-493 2000.

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London, Midlands, North

MSL International, the pioneer of executive recruitment in the UK over 30 years ago, has earned an excellent reputation for professionalism and client driven service in an increasingly competitive market.

The ambitious expansion of our Financial Recruiting Unit in London, the Midlands and the North means that we now urgently need senior qualified accountants capable of selling and executing top-level recruitment assignments in MSL's thorough and professional manner.

Probably in your thirties, you will need an outgoing personality as well as the ability to establish credibility at all levels. Flexibility of mind, sensitivity and a team approach are essential personal qualities.

The generous remuneration package will include a good basic salary plus profit sharing, car and the usual benefits.

Applications will be welcome from candidates with or without previous recruitment consultancy experience.

Please write enclosing full details including current salary to Nigel Bates FCA, quoting ref. B.34017.

MSL International (UK) Ltd.
52 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0AW.

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A fast growing marketing research company is looking for the first full time member to head what will be our finance department. The successful candidate will:

- Be a qualified accountant but have a shirt sleeve approach to bookkeeping
- Be able to institute new workable systems
- Enjoy a busy and lively working atmosphere

We view this as a very important post for our company so a good salary is on offer. If you are interested please telephone Anne Rice or Simon Lidington on 01-600 0373 or send your C.V. to The Business Research Unit, 20-21 Long Lane, London EC1A 9JE.

VACANCIES

A large Pakistani Bank requires staff of all cadres for its branches in England and Scotland.

Salary, allowances and other benefits commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Applications in writing with CV may be sent by 28th January, 1988 to: Reply to BOX D57

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The role demands well educated, quick thinking, commercially minded individuals aged 22-28 with a background in accountancy or commerce.

We can offer excellent training, high earnings potential and the opportunity for a management career.

If you wish to know more about a career with ACCOUNTANCY PERSONNEL, please call in to our office for an informal chat at 14 GREAT CASTLE STREET, OXFORD CIRCUS, LONDON W1H 7AD on Thursday 14th JANUARY between 9pm and 7pm, or call Liz Smith on 01-438 5511.

Accountancy Personnel
14 Great Castle Street, Oxford Circus, London W1H 7AD

YOUNG ACCOUNTANTS £9-12,000 + Study London & H. Counties

If you have 6-12 months accounting experience and studying for CIMA or ACCA, you may wish to broaden your experience by moving to a major co. offering excellent training and study assistance. We are currently recruiting for a range of co's including an Oil Co., a leading Travel Co., one of the fastest growing High Tech Co's and a major Merchant Bank. For more details contact Helen Richards on 01 387 5400 at FSS, Drayton House, Gordon Street, London WC1. Rec Cons.

TRAINEE ACCOUNTANT to £11,900 Harlow, Essex

This world leader in the marketing, sales and distribution of consumer products is looking for a young graduate, or someone with 1 year's accounting experience. You will liaison extensively with sales and marketing functions and need strong interpersonal skills. You will receive outstanding accountancy experience and full encouragement to qualify. Call Helen Richards on 01-387 5400 at FSS, Drayton House, Gordon Street, London WC1. Rec cons

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(0488) 84947

THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM

CHIEF ENGINEER

The University of Nottingham is a community of over 10,000 students and employees. Reporting to the Director of Works, the Chief Engineer heads sections responsible for the mechanical and electrical engineering aspects of the planning and maintenance of all University buildings and services. Management of a small direct labour force plus supervision of contractors are important features of the position.

Applicants, qualified engineers (C. Eng., M.Eng. E., M.I.E.E.), should have broadly based experience of all aspects of engineering planning, installation, maintenance and management and must demonstrate successful experience of budgetary control, team working/leadership, and industrial relations. The University is undertaking a major programme in energy management and relevant experience in this field will be expected. Preference will be given to mechanical engineers, but applications from qualified electrical engineers with mechanical experience are also invited. Experience gained in industry, public services, or universities is equally relevant but those under 35 are unlikely to have the necessary breadth of experience.

Salary for this pensionable post according to age and experience on scale £10,310 - £22,910. Further particulars and application forms from the Staff Appointments Office, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD, returnable not later than 1 February 1988. Ref 1138.

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As a result of a programme of expansion, RBC Trust Managers, the London-based Unit Trust Subsidiary of The Royal Bank of Canada, seeks to appoint an International Equity Fund Manager with a proven track record.

The successful candidate will join a team managing the investment portfolios of a number of authorised unit trusts and offshore investment funds currently valued at over £70 million. With the intended launch of additional unit trusts and related products, the appointment carries considerable further potential for the person with innovation, initiative and the ability to communicate effectively with professional clients.

A very competitive package of remuneration including company car, mortgage subsidy, health insurance will be provided.

Applications, which will be treated in strictest confidence, should be forwarded with a curriculum vitae to:

Derek Blacker, Personnel Director,
The Royal Bank of Canada Centre, 71 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4DE
Telephone: 01-489 1177

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We are currently looking for a high calibre and ambitious self-starter to participate in the continued development of our Computer Audit Department. As a key member of this department, you will be responsible for providing audit practice support, assistance with audit planning, advice on key computer controls and writing audit intervention software.

This is a new position which we see as critical to the expansion of the department. Success in this appointment will inevitably lead to rapid career progression.

If you would like to know more about this challenging role and you are a recently qualified chartered accountant with computer audit experience, please telephone Julia Ambler on 0832-66164 today or on 01-887 5030 during office hours. Please send a comprehensive cv quoting reference JAST1 to Paula Manning.

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Personnel Resources, 75 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8US.
Tel: 01-242 6321.

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The remuneration package will reflect the seniority of this position, as well as experience and ability. It is not expected to prove an obstacle.

For further information please send in confidence, a detailed C.V. and salary history together with a daytime telephone number to Neil Gillespie quoting ref 88002.

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For further information call Anna Knight on:
01 628 4200 ext 421
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Begbies,
6 Raymond Buildings
Gray's Inn,
London WC1R 5BP

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Busy hard-pressed chartered accountant in London West End practice and with own Financial Planning Company needs an assistant with background in financial planning business to help with secretarial/administration matters, but with a view to developing the Company's business further.

Salary £9,000 negotiable plus commission
References required
01 629 9834 or 01 495 1725

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Good prospects to join Board of Directors for a privately owned group of companies operating in recruitment fields and high class replica furniture. Trading throughout Southern England, based in Reading, the candidate will have previous commercial and man-management expertise which is essential. Age 25-35. Relocation assistance considered.
Apply to: Mr D Brown FCA, Managing Director, Senior Appointments, 21-25 Queen Victoria Street, Reading, Berks RG1 1ST or telephone in confidence 0734 500571

LEATHERHEAD FOOD R.A.

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT (up to £20,000 pa)

The Leatherhead Food Research Association is an industrial research laboratory, which offers advice and information to the food industry and carries out much of its analyses, research and development. Our Accounts Section comprises 6 staff who will handle nearly £6 million's worth of business this year from both UK and overseas companies.

Due to an impending retirement, we are seeking an Accountant whose main responsibilities will include offering financial advice to staff and management. He/she will be responsible for the operation of the Section, although routine work and day to day supervision of staff will be delegated to the Supervisor.

To manage our rather complex business procedure we require an experienced Accountant who is familiar with the use of a computerised system for all aspects of accounting, and who preferably has some knowledge of implementing computerised accounting and costing systems.

Formal accounting qualifications although desirable, are not essential but candidates should have the maturity and confidence to advise senior management and to work under pressure.

The successful candidate will be responsible to the Company Secretary and will receive benefits including pension scheme membership. Leatherhead is very well situated in the Surrey countryside just off the M25 and within a 40 minute train journey of London.

Please apply in writing with full CV to Susan Miles, Personnel Manager, Leatherhead Food Research Association, Randalls Road, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 7RY.

OPERATIONS ACCOUNTANT

C£15K + BENEFITS

Helena Rubinstein a leading cosmetics house, requires an Operations Accountant to manage their inventory, sales administration and customer services departments. With five staff and reporting to the Chief Accountant this new position has arisen as a result of restructuring and internal promotion.

Our requirement is for a person who is not only numerate but who is also a good administrator with excellent interpersonal skills. Above all, however, this person must be capable of establishing new systems and ensuring that they are adhered to by constant monitoring.

In the first instance please sent C.V. to

The Personnel Manager,
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Surrey KT8 0RB

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HORIZONS

A guide to career development

If you can't settle an industrial dispute, the Arbitrators will help

Settling out of court

Arbitration is one of those unusual professions about which most people, even well informed ones, know next to nothing. It is indeed a profession that exists at all. Yet it has been around, in one form or another, for hundreds of years. The process of arbitration has been recognized and supported by the courts since the First Arbitration Act in 1698.

It is a way of resolving commercial disputes without having to go to court. The parties to the arbitration simply agree to present their case to an independent third party who is familiar with the field - which could be anything from construction to insurance - and, crucially, also agree in advance to accept the arbitrator's decision as final and binding.

Going to court can be a lengthy process, will certainly be expensive, and takes place very publicly. It can also, as any litigant will tell you, generate quite a lot of bad feeling between the parties, some of it genuine, some stoked up by lawyers for either side. The lawyers wash their hands of the case when it is over. The litigants are often left with a bad after-taste.

Companies or individuals who recognize the need to resolve disputes but want to keep their relations with their adversary friendly (often because, despite the dispute, they still have to go on doing business together) can opt for the much more low key and relatively amicable process of arbitration.

There are a number of advantages to arbitration.

No time wasted on educating a judge

● **Flexibility.** In a court there are set procedures which must be followed. Parties to arbitration make their own rules of conduct: you can have all the formality of a High Court hearing with leading counsel representing the parties, or you can have something entirely informal where the parties simply meet the arbitrator round a table without any lawyers present. The procedure is tailored to the requirements of the individual dispute. That can save time and money.

● **Expertise.** Because the parties can choose a specialist arbitrator - say a scientist to cover a scientific dispute - they do not need to spend time educating the judge in the technical considerations underlying the dispute.

● **Privacy.** Arbitration is private and the arbitrator's award is published only to the parties to the dispute. In commercial disputes companies may well prefer not to wash their dirty linen in public.

● **Finality.** In litigation there is an appeals procedure, ultimately to the

If not the qualities of a Solomon, then at least the virtues of clear sightedness and fairness are very much needed by the middleman in industrial trouble, says Malcolm Brown

House of Lords. In arbitration, the award is final and binding, except in very exceptional circumstances. Arbitration is, by definition, a secondary profession, usually carried out alongside a primary one. It attracts all sorts of specialists, from architects and accountants to experts in insurance and maritime affairs.

"You're really looking for two things in an arbitrator," says Mr Laurie Slade, legal adviser to the arbitrators' professional body, the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. "One, the right technical background, because that's one of the reasons for using arbitration, and, secondly, competence as an arbitrator."

One of the conditions for entry is that prospective members should have standing of some sort in their principal profession, whatever it is. In practice the *sine qua non* for membership of the institute is that the applicant must be a corporate member by exam of an acceptable professional body.

But that is just the first step. To become a practising arbitrator with the blessing of the institute the applicant has to sit a set of tough exams, which usually takes a couple of years, and undergo a period of training with an established arbitrator.

"The standard set is a very high one," says Mr Slade. "We've had qualified lawyers fail the Part Two exam." The institute has about 6,000 associates (the "entry" grade of membership), and around 1,000 fellows (those entitled to practise).

The institute itself draws up panels of arbitrators from among its fellows, and there are only 300 of them. To get on a panel, the fellow applies to the institute for an attachment to a practising arbitrator. The fellow sits with the practising arbitrator on actual arbitrations. Very few people are actually in practice as full-time arbitrators, and this rather semi-detached approach is regarded as essential.

"Your value as an arbitrator is usually in relation to your principal profession," says Mr Slade. "If you're an engineer you will usually be acting as an arbitrator in engineering disputes. It is, therefore,

important that you keep up to date as an engineer so that you can continue to be an up to date arbitrator."

Quantity surveyor John Sims is a typical arbitrator. He is 57 and has been an arbitrator since the mid-1970s. He was always interested more in the contract side of building than in quantity surveying as such and in 1973 he set up as a consultant on contracts and claims.

Becoming an arbitrator was really just an extension of those interests, making use of the expertise that he had accumulated to try and help others resolve disputes in his specialist area. Now he divides his time between consultancy work and arbitration. He specializes in construction cases.

The disputes in which he arbitrates vary enormously in size and complexity. At the simple end of the spectrum are National House Building Council arbitrations - disputes between house purchasers and vendors over defects. At the other end of the spectrum are disputes over major construction contracts. Mr Sims agrees that you need to straddle the two professions, primary and secondary if you are to be of real use. "It keeps one in touch," he says.

Having made it into the profession, the arbitrator can generally expect to make a pretty good income out of arbitration, even if it is only a secondary profession.

There is no set scale of fees, but on average, for a major commercial dispute, where hundreds of thousands or millions of pounds may be involved, the arbitrator might well charge £800 to £1,000

A growing role in the computer field

a day (which would include overheads). For a more middle-of-the-road dispute rates would tend to be more like £400 to £600 a day. Fees for a consumer arbitration are very much lower.

One area where there is likely to be a growing demand for arbitrators is computers. "There's increasing interest in the possible use of arbitrators," says Mr Slade, "but I think the bottleneck is going to be the shortage of qualified arbitrators. You have lots of people who've got technical expertise in the computer industry. You have lots of arbitrators who have competence as arbitrators, but just a few, only a handful, who combine both disciplines."

The profession of arbitration is not one for youngsters. "You won't normally find people being admitted to fellowship or getting on to our panels much below 40," says Mr Slade. "It's a second career for mature professionals."

● **For further information, write to the Institute of Arbitrators, 75 Cannon Street, London EC4A 3DF (01-236-8761).**

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c£25,000+Car

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Our client is pre-eminent in the world of international insurance and reinsurance broking.

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The ideal candidate will be a recently qualified chartered

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Familiarity with computerised systems is required, and previous insurance audit experience is desirable but not essential.

Interested candidates should telephone:

Diane Forrester on 01-831 2000, or write to her at 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH.



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The presentation will cover career opportunities for tax specialists interested in pursuing a career within International Executive Tax Services. This group is part of the firm's worldwide network providing US/UK personal tax advice to multinational companies and their executive employees. The presentation will include information regarding the in-house training programme held in Europe, the USA and UK, career prospects and the remuneration package on offer. Drinks and refreshments will be served throughout the evening. To reserve your place, please telephone David Kennedy on 01-831 2000 (evenings and weekends 0732 460373) at Michael Page Partnership, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH.



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VIKING PROPERTY GROUP Group Financial Controller

The Viking Property Group of property development companies with substantial programmes in both the United Kingdom and North America proposes to appoint a qualified accountant as Group Financial Controller. The successful applicant who is likely to be aged about 35 will be based at the Group's Head Office. In liaison with the present accountant, he will be responsible directly to the Joint Managing Directors for all financial aspects of the Group including:

- Financial reporting
- Management accounts information
- Budgetary control
- Data processing
- Assets and Cash Management
- Tax Planning
- Insurance
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- Administrative Systems

In addition he will assist in the assessment of the economics of contemplated development schemes, in the control of the expenditure of projects in hand and in the completion of the relevant legal documentation. He will also be appointed Company Secretary to all the companies within the Group.

Salary, car and other fringe benefits will be offered commensurate with age and experience. Applications in writing with full CV and recent photograph to The Joint Managing Directors, Viking Property Group Ltd, Kilburn Hall, Kilburn, Derby, DE5 0LJ, marking the envelope "Private and Confidential".

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An energetic and creative individual is sought for this position either ACA/CACA, or CIMA qualified, with substantial relevant experience gained preferably within a professional partnership. Likely age 30-45. Excellent prospects for career advancement.

Please contact Sue Turner in the first instance, or forward your cv in strictest confidence.

ACCOUNTANCY APPOINTMENTS
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Applications, with a full curriculum vitae including current salary package, should be sent to: Mr B. Evans, Senior Personnel Executive, CDC, 33 Hill Street, London W1A 3AR.

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Ms

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BANKING & ACCOUNTANCY

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To apply for this career appointment please write enclosing complete career details to Jack Henderson who is advising the Company on this appointment or alternatively telephone for an initial discussion.

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Ref: C9735

70 Watling St, EC4, 01-236 0657.

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Ref: M8727

33/55 Moorgate, EC2 01-638 3955.

SIB

Two Key Appointments

The SIB (The Securities and Investments Board) is the agency designated by the Department of Trade and Industry to implement the new regulatory structure for investment businesses. Based in the City, the SIB seeks to appoint two members of staff at Assistant Director level in the Policy section of the Regulation Division. Working within an established team, the candidates will be responsible for the development of the policy for the capital requirements and financial regulation of authorised investment businesses. Extensive liaison both internally, and externally with Self-Regulating Organisations and Recognised Professional Bodies, will be involved.

Applicants will have an accountancy or related qualification and experience of the financial services sector gained within an investment business, the accountancy profession or a relevant institution, and have the personal qualities to communicate effectively at senior levels. Experience of the securities industry or financial futures and commodities markets would be particularly relevant.

The rewards will not disappoint. Technical, intellectual and personal challenge will be encountered within this high profile body at the apex of the new framework for investor protection.

Interested applicants should phone Paul Wilson on 01-404 5751 or write to him at Michael Page City, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH. Strictest confidentiality is assured.



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We are seeking an Accountant, preferably qualified, or with good practical experience, who has sound accounting skills and has experience in management accounting, budgetary control, computerised systems and staff management.

You will join our highly professional finance team in which your own role will include production of monthly accounts, liaison with budget managers and responsibility for the Payments Section of a busy finance office.

Salary will be in the range of £12,400-£14,855 pa (reviewed April 1988) and conditions of employment include 32 day holiday and a non-smoking working environment.

For full job details and an application form contact the Personnel Officer, Royal College of Nursing, 20 Cavendish Square, London W1M 0AB or telephone 01-409 3333 ext. 343. Completed application forms to be returned by 26th January 1988.

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The Staff Manager,
Killick Martin & Co. Ltd,
Challenger House,
42 Adler Street,
London E1 1EN.
Telephone 01 247 5422

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Up to £12,500 pa High Holborn

Nationwide Anglia, the country's 3rd largest Building Society is looking for a Senior Management Secretary to provide a full secretarial role for the General Manager of the Housing and Estates Department.

Applicants should be aged 25 or above and of immaculate appearance, as the successful candidate will be dealing with the Society's Senior Executives, as well as with contacts in outside organisations. Confidence, maturity and experience at a Senior Secretarial level together with a pleasant, efficient telephone manner are essential, as is the ability to exercise discretion.

Candidates must possess excellent secretarial skills including typing speeds of 50 wpm along with experience of audio typing and word processing.

A good educational background is also required, including a minimum of 5 'O' levels including English, along with secretarial qualifications, at least to Private Secretary's Certificate level.

Applicants must have a minimum of 5 years' secretarial experience. In addition to a starting salary of up to £12,500 per annum, depending on qualifications and experience, the Society also offers subsidised staff restaurant facilities, interest free season ticket loans, and, after a qualifying period of service, concessionary mortgage facilities.

Interested applicants should either send a CV with details of current salary or alternatively telephone for an application form. Applications should reach us no later than 25th January, 1988, addressed to Mr R N Wharton, Personnel Administration Manager, Nationwide Anglia Building Society, Chesterfield House, Bloomsbury Way, London WC1N 6PW. Tel: 01 242 8822 Ext: 2578.



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Government office, located in the West End, requires secretary preferably experienced in commerce. Work involves correspondence both in English and Italian, statistics, etc. English mother tongue and good knowledge of Italian essential. Salary £6,900 plus bonus.

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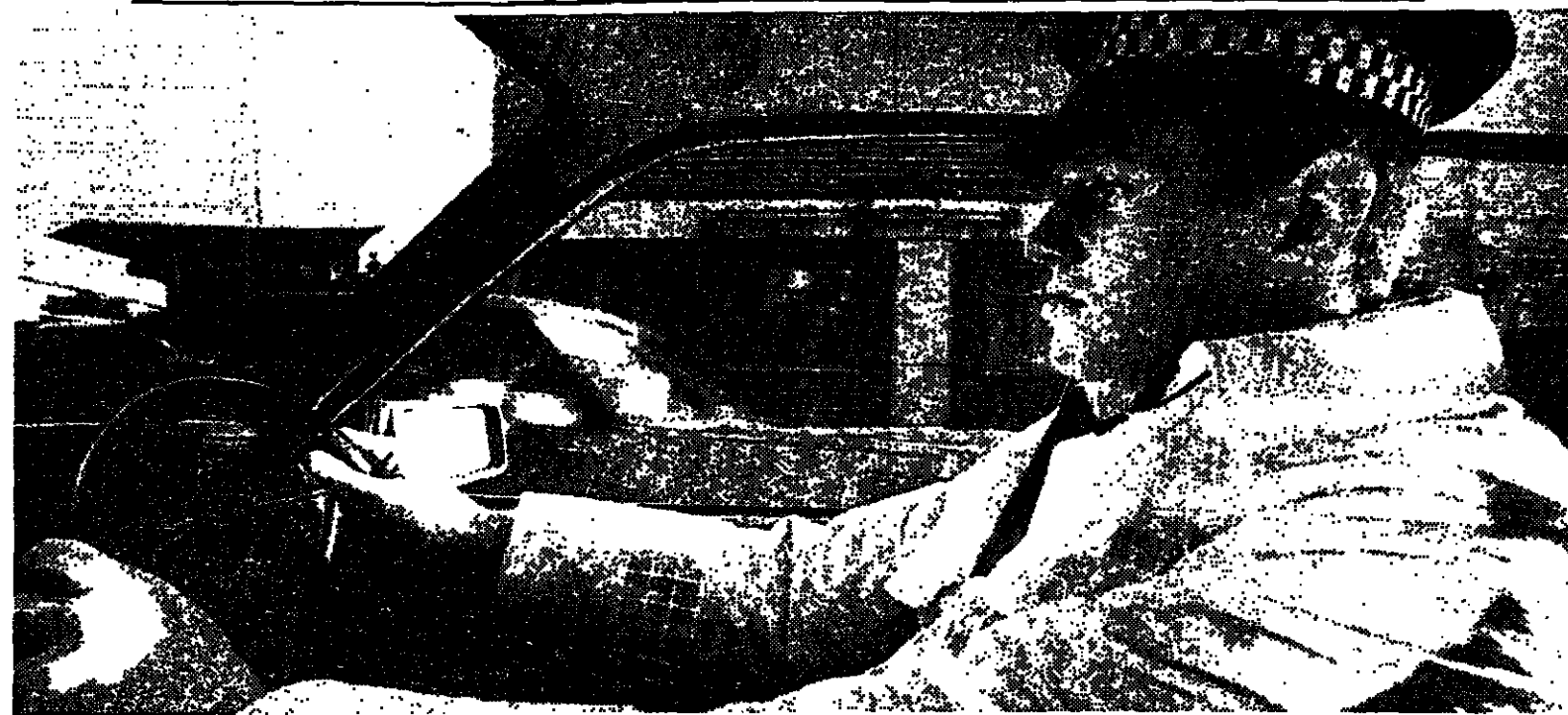
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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 278: 1039-1044.

Mick Cleary finds rugby union's quiet man is a law unto himself



When duty calls: Dean Richards, the England No. 8, at the wheel of a police instant response vehicle in Hinckley (Photograph: Charlotte Winn)

The arresting qualities of Richards

All rugby players have their own methods of preparing themselves mentally for a match. Whether it be in the club, divisional or international sphere, whilst some might be pounding their bodies or communing with a piece of nearby concrete, Dean Richards, the England No. 8 for Saturday's five nations championship match against France, will quietly request a visit to the loo and slip out for a cup of tea.

"I'm not one of nature's head-bangers," Richards, aged 24, of Leicester, confesses. "I find I don't need all that macho mayhem before a game to get myself properly prepared. Besides, you might hurt yourself."

It is one of nature's endearing qualities that appearances are so often deceptive. Watching the brawny Richards huffing away in the hurly-burly of the action, those unfamiliar with the game might, in their naivety, label him as the sort of brutish oaf which, to them, typifies the sport. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Richards is as mild-mannered, phlegmatic a man as you are likely to meet. It is difficult to envisage him embroiled in the frenetic cut and thrust of international rugby. His policeman's lot in Hinckley also demands a Jekyll and

Hyde switch of character. Seated in his "instant response vehicle" it is all flashing lights, waiting sirens and break-neck driving; seemingly an unsuitable world for his laid-back, laconic persona.

There is no doubting his credentials on the field. Not since the days of John Scott have England had such an influential figure in the No. 8 position. Indeed, such is the authority of his play, it is surprising to note Richards' relative inexperience. He has gained only seven caps so far, four of which came in the World Cup. A knee injury ruined the last five nations season for him, when he recovered only in time for England's finest performance, the 21-12 defeat of Scotland.

His debut two years ago against Ireland left an indelible impression on spectators and opposition when his purposeful, all-embracing display was crowned with two well-taken push-over tries, being denied a third only by a hapless, penalized collapse by the Irish.

At first sight Richards appears rather awkward and lumbering of gait. Speed may not be his forte but a sharp sense of anticipation and an acute awareness of the frenetic cut and thrust of international rugby. His policeman's lot in Hinckley also demands a Jekyll and

Hyde switch of character. Seated in his "instant response vehicle" it is all flashing lights, waiting sirens and break-neck driving; seemingly an unsuitable world for his laid-back, laconic persona.

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Hyde switch of character. Seated in his "instant response vehicle" it is all flashing lights, waiting sirens and break-neck driving; seemingly an unsuitable world for his laid-back, laconic persona.

SPORTS LETTERS

Ideas should be squashed

From Captain R.C. Toddhunter, RN (ret).

Sir, I write as an ancient squash player who still takes an interest in the progress of the game. I first played in 1912 in one of the first private courts erected in the UK. Later I played in the Amateur championship in 1923, when we played the best of three games of 15 up, (and was beaten over Navy championship, and in 1932 I succeeded in getting through to the last eight of the Amateur championship. I played my last match in 1965.

The purpose of my letter is to say how shocked I have been recently to read suggestions that the game should be changed by: 1) Altering the height of the tin; 2) Altering the size of the court; 3) Adopting American scoring.

Having invented the game here some 75 years ago, can it really be seriously suggested that we should alter the whole character of a simply because apparently some players think that they have a better chance of victory if we go "All-American"?

Why not change other games too? For example cricket have been suggested to be changed to football — have a wider goal so as to make goal-scoring easier; rugby union — close up the goalposts so as to stop the emphasis on kicking.

I feel sure that thousands of squash players (as I do, and I hope that someone will be able to give me an assurance that there is no possibility of the game being changed.

Yours truly, R. C. TODDHUNTER, The Gatehouse, Nutfield, Redhill, Surrey.

Waste of money

From Mr J.A. Hughes

Sir, By some twisted logic Mrs Buchan (December 24) appears to imply that the Sun City golf prize-money was obtained by tearing it away from tortured children in South Africa.

I would suggest to Mrs Buchan (and any other MEP who cares to listen) that the taxpayers' money wasted by the European Parliament would be more than sufficient to help, feed and clothe all those who suffer from famine, disease and torture in the world. I refer to the cost of shuffling the parliament back and forth between Strasbourg and Luxembourg, and to the very generous travel and tax-free allowances that MEPs have awarded themselves.

It may have escaped Mrs Buchan's notice that about a dozen other top players also took part in this tournament, including Nick Faldo, the Open champion. Perhaps Mrs Buchan should suggest that Mr Faldo should return his (well deserved) MBE in protest!

Yours sincerely, J.A. HUGHES, Four Acres, Potters Wood, Buckinghamshire, January 8.

Suspend managers

From Mr Nicholas Birch

Sir, I firmly believe that if the FA suspended club managers for up to a month when their clubs attracted a given number of disciplinary points, the problems on the pitch would rapidly diminish.

After all, they are responsible for all aspects of the running of clubs and they do share the spoils.

Yours faithfully, NICHOLAS BIRCH, 9 Coldharbour Lane, Bushey, Hertfordshire.

In possession of the full facts

From Mr R.N. Lindsey

As co-ordinator of William Lindsey's epic 1,550-mile run along the Great Wall of China from Jiauyuan to Shanhaiguan, I am in possession of the full facts and vigorously refute any suggestion that my brother did not make the most complete journey ever by a non-Chinese (January 7).

His verified diaries, with postcards from villages visited, were seen by researchers from the government-controlled Xinhua news agency before the story was published by the *China Daily*. Furthermore, the diaries were scrutinized by Chinese television producers before William Lindsey made an unprecedented appearance on Beijing television. He does not deny that there were minor difficulties, as any independent traveller in China will experience, but these were overcome due to the overwhelming goodwill expressed by the local people.

A further accolade was the acceptance by the Chinese Em-

bassy in London of William Lindsey's expedition and the tremendous generosity of the Chinese Ambassador in holding the first ever Press conference at the Embassy on January 6. Not surprisingly, the allegations have originated from the China Sports Service company, whom William Lindsey avoided two years ago as he did not wish to take up their offer for a fee, to provide services for a fee.

William Lindsey is prepared to discuss his journey in detail with any Sinologist and the full logistics will be published in a book later in the year.

Any person coming into contact with William Lindsey on a personal level will know him to be of the highest integrity, an athlete who shows grit and determination and now an explorer in the true British tradition.

Yours faithfully, R.N. LINDESEY, Windy Ridge, Montgomery Hill, Farnley, Warril, Merseyside, January 11.

Not only violence

From Mr Michael Hodge

Sir, A lot has been said in recent times about the state of British football and why it is decreasing in popularity. Apart from concerns over crowd violence, no firm conclusions have been reached about the state of British football and why it is decreasing in popularity. Apart from concerns over crowd violence, no firm conclusions have been reached about the state of British football and why it is decreasing in popularity.

A friend and I recently took three of our children to a game at one of the country's top clubs, which was our first visit to a first division match (which in itself speaks volumes). Aside from crowd violence, I may be able to provide some of the answers to football's decline which perhaps, if addressed, might improve the situation.

1) It was not possible to obtain tickets over the telephone by credit card. This seems to be backward in this day and age. If football clubs think that only "yuppies" have credit cards, then think again.

2) Entry to the family enclosure was restricted to members of the supporters club. (This may be legitimate because clearly the club has a duty to confine this area to bona fide family groups but was, nevertheless, irritating.)

3) At £2 a ticket (for a seat) it is quite an expensive family treat.

4) The seating was very basic.

5) The toilets were fairly primitive, e.g. no handwashing facilities.

6) It was impossible to reach the aforementioned expert management.

The answer to the decline seems to lie in the hands of the club management (by which I mean the directors not the team managers) to improve the facilities for the audience and encourage support more widely. To borrow a metaphor from another sport, I think the ball is in their court.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL C.E. HODGE, Briarwood, Gostrey Lane, Cranage, Cheshire, January 6.

Essential step

From Mr B.A. Hunt

Sir, I refer to letters from Mr Fulford (January 7) and Mr Constant (December 10) on competition in the management of leisure facilities.

Competition is in my opinion long overdue, for even a cursory glance at the Leisure Estimates produced by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy clearly shows why this step must be taken. These show that the net cost of providing these so-called "essential" services to the extent of £1.2 billion a year, of which some £300,000,000 is attributable to indoor sports centres. We are constantly being reminded by the recreation professionals, who manage these centres, how efficiently they are run.

This being so, and I take their word for it, what have they to fear from competition? It would surely take a quite exceptional and highly qualified person to run a busy, efficient facility at a £250,000-a-year loss. "We can explain that," I hear them rushing to say. "It's the pool you know." Sorry, but you forgive the pun. "That won't wash" for a further look at the CIPFA estimates shows that "only" facilities are not immune from

the aforementioned expert management.

Perhaps their deficits would be somewhat reduced if they were to open a little more, like say bank holidays, Boxing and New Year's Day, or even after 6 p.m. at the weekends.

My sympathy is for the elected members of whatever political hue, who have struggled over the past two difficult decades to provide superb facilities where none previously existed, only to see them under-used, over-stuffed and badly managed.

Yours sincerely, B.A. HUNT, 47 Swallow Avenue, Skellinghorpe, Lincoln.

Extended coverage

From Mr Adrian Turner

Sir, Mr Robinson Riley complains (January 7) that most contemporary sports reports more properly belong to the Business or the Entertainment pages.

On the contrary, I would prefer to congratulate you on extending the hospitality of the Sports pages to those fascinating contests which are the subject of the Law Reports.

Yours faithfully, A.G.L. TURNER, Skellinghorpe, Lincoln.

Claim against trade union fails

From Mr J.A. Hughes

Sir, I refer to the decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal on December 17, 1987, in the case of *Legrave v Argyll Stores (Properties) Ltd*.

Notes made by the chairman of an industrial tribunal were to be taken as sacrosanct unless the parties agreed that they were not. Mr Justice Goffe, in the Appeal Tribunal on December 17, 1987, held that they were not.

His Lordship, sitting with Mrs M. Boyle and Mrs M. Sunderland, dismissed an interlocutory application to allow the produc-

Notes sacrosanct

tion of an affidavit disputing the accuracy of the chairman's notes.

HIS LORDSHIP said that as a matter of policy the decision in *Owen v Jackson* [1981] 1 All ER 377, had been followed. The appeal tribunal were incapable of deciding whether a chairman's notes were accurate or not, and a party should not be permitted to challenge the notes where their accuracy could not be proved.

Solicitors: J.A. Hughes Evans Fryer Barrs, Leo Abbe & Cohen, Cardiff.

SKIING

Lauberhorn classic is second casualty

From Iain Macleod, Zinal

With the mild, unseasonal conditions still persisting in many parts of central Europe, the International Ski Federation has again been forced to make major alterations to the World Cup schedule.

The latest casualty is the season's second classic race, the men's downhill at Lauberhorn, which was to have been held at Wengen from January 22 to 24. The two downhill, one of which was originally scheduled for Schlading, in Austria, on New Year's Eve, will now take place in Leukerbad in Switzerland on January 23 and 24. A date for the second race remains provisional.

Also moved is the men's super giant slalom, which was scheduled for Wengen on January 24. It will now take place in Leukerbad, but a day later than scheduled.

The poor snow conditions in the Bernese Oberland has also caused the cancellation of next Tuesday's men's giant slalom in Adelboden. It has now been moved to Saas-Fee and the date remains unaltered.

Minor alterations have also been made to the women's two downhill races due to take place tomorrow and Saturday. Tomorrow's race will now be held today after the meteorological office had predicted storm force conditions. Saturday's race is expected to proceed as scheduled.

Zinal, which has organized its first World Cup event at only nine days notice, will welcome the extra day, with the Swiss television service, SRG, unable to provide full-blown coverage of either race, the revenue from TV rights has been reduced by two thirds.

And though Kodak have stepped in with a sponsorship of £17,000, this small village of 170 inhabitants has prepared itself for a deficit conservatively estimated around SF200,000.

RUGBY UNION

Chester let down by their pack

From Iain Macleod, Zinal

Manchester University, with their UAU match against Bristol University looming in a couple of weeks, overcame Chester College 49-16 at Fallowfield yesterday, scoring four goals, four tries, and three penalties to two goals and a try (Michael Stevenson writes).

Chester also have a quarter-final match in the Colleges Cup and must hope for a considerable tightening of their neck. Manchester took some time to discover any cohesion but still managed to establish an 18-0 interval lead. Pond's penalty was followed by his conversion of a try by Jackson. Shortly before the interval, the headmaster, Mason, scored for Pond again to convert.

Manchester stretched the lead through two tries by Hales, and a penalty from Pond. SCORERS: Manchester University: Tries: Jackson (2), Hales (2), Pond (2); Goals: Pond (2); Penalties: Pond (2); Chester College: Tries: Evans (2); Henson, Conners (2); Henson, Conners (2).

Manchester stretched the lead through two tries by Hales, and a penalty from Pond. SCORERS: Manchester University: Tries: Jackson (2), Hales (2), Pond (2); Goals: Pond (2); Penalties: Pond (2); Chester College: Tries: Evans (2); Henson, Conners (2); Henson, Conners (2).

Manchester stretched the lead through two tries by Hales, and a penalty from Pond. SCORERS: Manchester University: Tries: Jackson (2), Hales (2), Pond (2); Goals: Pond (2); Penalties: Pond (2); Chester College: Tries: Evans (2); Henson, Conners (2); Henson, Conners (2).

BOBSLEIGHING

Olympic hopefuls to miss Sarajevo

From Chris Moore, Cervinia

The Allied Steel British Olympic team last night confirmed their official withdrawal from the European Championships in Sarajevo, starting on January 23.

Instead, after competing in this week's final round of the Foster's World Cup series here, they will be spending the following week in St Moritz, putting the finishing touches to their preparations for the Winter Games in Calgary next month.

"The main problem about Sarajevo is the distance and logistics involved," Simon Strong, secretary of the British Bobsleigh Association, said.

"The European Championships do not finish until January 31, which would have left us on a very tight schedule to get to the vehicles and equipment back to Britain before flying out to Canada on February 6."

Sarajevo was to have incorporated the fifth and final race in the British Olympic selection process, to determine which two out of three — Nick Phipps, Mark Tout and Tom De La Hunty — drive the Great Britain No. 1 and No. 2 bobs in the Olympics.

"To be fair to everyone, we've arranged to stage both a two and four-man race in St Moritz instead," said Mo Hammond, the British team manager, who will be president of the Olympic jury in Calgary.

All three drivers have spent the last week here, where they have been afforded unofficial track time on what is generally regarded as the most dangerous and demanding track in Europe.

Phipps, in particular, is in need of a good performance in this week's two-man competition as a result of a disappointing season so far, but Tout could still finish among the overall medal winners in the four-man event.

He slipped from third place to sixth after overturning in the fourth round race at Königssee.

Queen's Bench Division

Law Report January 14 1988

Queen's Bench Division

Threat insufficient for declaration

Regina v Hillingdon London Borough Council, Ex parte Tinn

Before Mr Justice Kennedy [Judgment January 13]

An applicant was not entitled to a declaration that a local authority should not occupy accommodation when he could not discharge the fiscal obligations without so straining his resources as to deprive himself of the necessities of life.

The applicant worked on an extremely tight budget. Since November 1986 she had just managed to break even but might not be able to go on doing so. She had lost weight and had been diagnosed as suffering from diabetes.

The local authority argued that a declaration was wholly inappropriate at this stage as there had been no specific offer of surrender of the lease. The duty to consider whether or not the applicant was a homeless person could only arise in certain circumstances defined

by the 1985 Act. It was common ground that those circumstances had not arisen. That proposition was correct.

The applicant was seeking a declaration regarding the attitude of the local authority at some future date, at a time when she was not entitled to such a guarantee from the local authority or court.

There could not be intervention by the court on what was no more than advice. The first step as defined by the Act must have been taken before the local authority could be forced to act.

The local authority was fully entitled to refuse to accept surrender of a lease. It was under no obligation to take back that which it had partly sold. It had to decide for itself how best to use its resources.

The local authority had

rightly attempted to assist the applicant by indicating his likely attitude to possible events. Whether the indications were correct was open to argument and whether the same indications would be given now in the light of the applicant's health might be subject to doubt.

The decision was not one which could properly be the subject of the declaration sought. The local authority was only obliged to act when the situation defined by the Act arose. To grant the declaration would be to take away from the local authority a decision which Parliament required it to take.

That did not mean that if the applicant sold her house the local authority would be bound or entitled to find she was voluntarily homeless.

Solicitors: Hughtons; Mr J. A. Kosky, Hillingdon.

Employer wrong to withhold pay

Wilczynski v Tower Hamlets London Borough Council

Before Mr Justice Michael Davies [Judgment January 11]

An employer was not entitled to deduct the whole of an employee's pay in circumstances where the employee substantially fulfilled his contract but failed fully to perform his duties because of a boycott called by his trade union.

Mr Justice Michael Davies held in the Queen's Bench Division in giving judgment for the plaintiff, Marek Andrzej Wilczynski, against the defendant London Borough of Tower Hamlets for withheld wages in the sum of £1,003 plus interest.

Mr John Hendy, QC and Mr Jeremy McDevlin for the plaintiff; Mr J. M. Williams, QC and Mr Paul Teffer Rose for the council.

MR JUSTICE MICHAEL DAVIES said at all material times the plaintiff was employed by the defendant as an estate officer in the housing department. The plaintiff was a member of Nalco.

There was a dispute between Nalco and the defendants over the grading of two other trade unionists against the decision of which Nalco decided to take limited industrial action.

On May 16, 1985 Nalco passed a resolution to boycott council members' inquiries from May 20.

The plaintiff received an average of only one or two members' inquiries a week. The boycott did not affect the rest of the plaintiff's work and he substantially carried out all his duties.

As a result of a meeting on May 26, 1985 the council resolved that any employee who refused to answer a member's inquiry would be sent off the premises without pay. Fifteen days' notice would be given to those who refused to process members' inquiries. In fact, no one was sent off the premises or given notice.

On June 27, 1985 the defendants wrote to the housing department officers informing them that if they refused to process members' inquiries they would be held in breach of contract and would only be paid if they worked normally.

The defendants arranged for the employees in dispute to be asked whether they were prepared to undertake their full range of duties. If not, they were told that from July 1 they would not be required at work.

That was said not to be a suspension but simply an exercise by the council of its contractual right.

The plaintiff was not paid from August 13 until September 17 when the dispute was resolved. During that period the plaintiff carried out all his duties apart from replying to members' inquiries which would have amounted to two to three hours' work.

Although the plaintiff was in breach of contract it was minimal. The plaintiff substantially performed his contract. The defendants were not entitled to withhold the whole of the plaintiff's pay. The material fact was that the plaintiff was not paid but that the defendants would have been entitled to deduct a proportion of his pay for the time he did not spend on members' inquiries.

Solicitors: Bruce Price & Co; Mr A. S. Tobias, Bethnal Green.

Letter of comfort created £10m legal liability

Kleinwort Benson Ltd v Malaysian Mining Corporation Berhad

Before Mr Justice Hirst [Judgment December 21]

The onus of proving there was no intention to create legal relations by a letter of comfort was on the party who asserted that no legal effect was intended.

Mr Justice Hirst so held in the Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division in giving judgment for the plaintiffs, Kleinwort Benson Ltd, against the defendants, Malaysian Mining Corporation Berhad (MMC), for agreed damages of £10,004,499 plus interest.

Mr Mark Waller, QC and Mr Nicholas Padfield for the plaintiffs; Mr Samuel Stammer, QC and Mr Julian Gibson-Watt for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE HIRST said the case concerned the legal status and construction of a paragraph in a letter of comfort furnished by the defendants, MMC, to the plaintiffs, Kleinwort, as an integral part of an acceptance credit/multi-currency cash loan facility made available by Kleinwort to

MMC's effectively wholly owned subsidiary, MMC Metals Ltd ("Metals").

The case was yet another instance of litigation resulting from the consequences of the collapse of the International Tin Council in October 1985.

MMC furnished to Kleinwort a comfort letter dated August 21, 1984 as part of a facility granted to Metals to a maximum of £5,000,000.

The crucial paragraph in that letter stated: "It is our policy to ensure that the business of MMC Metals Ltd is at all times in a position to meet its liabilities to you..."

Subsequently, the maximum amount of the facility was increased to £10,000,000 in a second comfort letter.

Upon the collapse of the tin market, Metals ceased trading and on November 11, 1985 Kleinwort terminated the facility and demanded immediate payment of all outstanding bills, loans and other sums payable. Those were not forthcoming and shortly afterwards Metals went into liquidation.

By letter dated November 12, 1985 Kleinwort drew MMC's attention to Metals' default and required MMC to ensure that Kleinwort received forthwith the payments due to them.

By Telex dated December 3, 1985 MMC renounced liability. The main issue to be decided was whether the crucial paragraph was contractual in status.

The relevant principle of law was set out in *Chitty on Contracts* (29th edition (1983) paragraph 123) under the heading "Contractual Intention" as "The onus of proving that there was no intention to create legal relations is on the party who asserts that no legal effect is intended, and the onus is a heavy one."

That principle was derived from *Hyundai Heavy Industries Co Ltd v Hyundai Construction Co Ltd* (1984) 1 WLR 349, 355.

The two comfort letters came into existence as part and parcel of a commercial banking transaction and the paragraph in question was an important feature of those letters. The presumption in *Edwards v Skyways* therefore applied.

A number of considerations reinforced the presumption. First, Kleinwort clearly acted in reliance, *inter alia*, on that

paragraph in agreeing to advance the first £5,000,000 and then increasing that to £10,000,000.

Second, it was of paramount importance to Kleinwort that Metals should ensure that Metals was at all times in a position to meet its liabilities under the facility arrangements.

Resentful of the Big Brother approach from Lord's, the England players closed ranks behind their manager Peter Lush

Scheming continued right to the end



Following the fracas at Faisalabad Raman Subba Row, the TCCB chairman, and Alan Smith, the board's chief executive, flew to Pakistan in an effort to save the tour and placate the England players. On the final day of a three-part investigation, ALAN LEE, Cricket Correspondent of *The Times*, who has reconstructed the events of a fateful tour, reveals the history of Shakoor Rana's apology that never was

The reason consistently given by the Test and County Cricket Board for insisting that the tour should be completed and, many would claim, sacrificing the dignity of their captain, is that they had to consider the "long term interest of the game".

This is the official party line and substantially true. There were, however, a number of other pressing factors behind the scenes, some of which had an appreciable influence over the decision. These factors can be summarized as moral, political and financial.

The moral issue was a dilemma, compounded by the widespread public opinion that "the boys should come home". There were those in high places who simply considered that the England team was in no position to moralize over injustices; that, in fact, they had sacrificed any such right through an unforgivable degree of dissent during incidents which had been viewed by a startled television audience of millions.

Political interference did not have a direct bearing on any decisions reached by the TCCB, but neither was it a negligible factor. A high-ranking Foreign Office official had been in touch with the board at Lord's, anxious to be kept abreast of developments. The fact that they were concerned was something the TCCB could not ignore, for it had been made very plain that a rapid and amicable solution, plus the completion of the tour, were needed to satisfy the Foreign Office.

Financial concerns were twofold: on the international front, the sum of £69,000, a final instalment of the tour guarantee fee, was still owed to the TCCB by the Pakistan board. I understand another sum, due to be paid by the Pakistan television company for rights to the series, was also outstanding. Calling off the tour, it was plainly feared, might put the receipt of such monies in jeopardy.

At a domestic level, there was anxiety over the reaction of sponsors to the affair. Cornhill Insurance, official sponsors of all Test cricket in England, had already warned they would not associate with a game of tacky image, following the drugs scandal involving Ian Botham; they were hardly likely to applaud the example being set by Mike Gatting now.

Peacemakers anticipated hostility from players

Then there was the matter of a new deal, about to be announced, linking the England team with cricket education in primary schools. Eyebrows were already being raised about the wisdom of youngsters being expected to clasp ties with boorish stars — and here, a great deal of money, £550,000, was at stake.

So, in addition to their own genuine views that the brotherhood of cricket should be preserved and disputes patched up for the common good, the



Video nasty: in a scene recreated by Sian Francis, Gatting, with the team behind him, shows replays of the controversial incidents to, from left, Sabba Row, Smith, Lush and Stewart

CRISIS COUNTDOWN

- December 12: Faisalabad Test ends in draw. England fly to Karachi.
- December 13: Test and County Cricket Board officials Raman Subba Row and Alan Smith fly to Karachi.
- December 14: Sabba Row and Smith meet England players and management.
- December 15: Sabba Row begins to seek apology from umpire Shakoor Rana, providing General Butt, the Pakistan board president, with an acceptable draft for Shakoor to sign.
- December 16: Third and final Test begins in Karachi.
- December 18: TCCB officials fly home. Sabba Row promises £1,000 bonus to each player. Shakoor's "apology" arrives with text altered.
- December 19: Players discuss bonus. Some want to refuse offer.
- December 21: Karachi Test ends in draw. England lose series 1-0. "This tour has been an education," Gatting says.

board's efforts to save the tour and placate their rebellious players can also be seen as an expedient to peace in several other quarters.

Raman Subba Row and Alan Smith were not exactly looking forward to their peace-keeping mission. They suspected the England players would not greet them with much favour and, no matter the friendship that both could claim with various players, they were not wrong. Their imminent arrival was viewed by the players with a mixture of contempt and hostility, not so much through any personal animosity but because the pair were the appointed representatives of employers the team believed had abandoned them.

The players resented the "Big Brother" approach and sympathized with their manager, Peter Lush, whose authority had been undermined. They closed ranks to such an extent that, prior to the arrival of Subba Row and Smith, they manoeuvred a switch of hotel rooms to ensure they did not have to share a floor with them.

Both sides expected their planned get-together to be tempestuous. In this, they were mistaken. As it was, on one side,

the TCCB men had come determined to conciliate rather than confront and, on the other, the players were weary of proclaiming their innocence and, perhaps, a little cowed by the consequences of their un sanctioned, anti-board statement. Whatever the reasons, the two-hour meeting staged in a function room of Karachi's plush Pearl Continental hotel, was conducted in a subdued mood.

Subba Row and Smith, who had already spent three hours with various combinations of Gatting, Lush and Micky Stewart, England's cricket manager, trying to establish the pattern of events from their viewpoints, were shown some video by the team. There were replays of the controversial incidents, designed to prove that, to some degree, the actions of the England players had been unfairly portrayed. Gatting was the primary spokesman, but most of the players had something to say, or to ask.

Subba Row recalls being struck most forcibly by the strain on the faces of the players. "I have never seen a group of cricketers look so worried," he recalled. So moved was he by this that, unexpectedly, he told the team that they could, if they wished, go home on the next available plane. He added, however, that people would respect them far more if

they saw the trip through. The men from Lord's in the end found surprisingly little resistance, for by this time the players had agreed among themselves that no purpose would be served by going home early, whatever the temptation.

Idea of belated apology floated to Subba Row

One particular point had been made at the meeting, Gatting still considered he was owed an apology by Shakoor Rana and he did not intend that Subba Row and Smith should forget it. Several times, as the final Test began in Karachi in an unreal atmosphere of ceasefire, Gatting reminded Subba Row of the matter — not that he had forgotten. For three days, indeed, the bulk of Subba Row's energies were directed towards obtaining an apology and if, in the process, he upset various of his Pakistani counterparts, he had ceased to care.

On the evening prior to the start of the Karachi Test, Subba Row had the first of his six rows with General Butt, president of the Pakistan board and a man happier climbing mountains than dealing with cricket politics. The TCCB chairman was angry that Butt had broken his promise

to resolve the original dispute "equitably". Subba Row told him bluntly that the failure to solve the problem had set the TCCB at odds with their own team, a most uncomfortable position.

To Subba Row's surprise, Butt said it might be possible to organize a belated apology from Shakoor, but was taken aback when Subba Row then produced a handwritten letter from his pocket — a three-paragraph draft apology which needed only the umpire's signature.

Over the next two days, events took a bizarre turn. While the apology, which would have justified the board chief's visit, was impatiently awaited, Subba Row, Smith and Lush twice dined out with the Pakistan chiefs. Their evenings were remarkably amicable, considering the circumstances, which were not improving. The rows, which had been furious punctuations between the social evenings, became still more intense.

On the morning of December 17, the third day of the Test, the apology had still not been delivered. Butt said he had to leave the ground early to attend his niece's wedding; Subba Row, who was due to fly home that night, confronted him one last time behind the main grandstand. Feelings ran high, so high

that Butt became almost tearful. He made a promise that his secretary, Ijaz Butt, no relation, would be at the Pearl hotel before 7 p.m. with the apology.

Ijaz did not arrive on time. The TCCB chiefs are now convinced that the delay was deliberate, so that the airport-bound Subba Row would not have time to receive and check the letter. When the apology was delivered, later that night, to Gatting in his hotel room, the captain found that a crucial word had been omitted from the carefully constructed text. That word, which should have been contained in the final sentence, was "apology". Oddly, Gatting did not tell any of his team-mates that he had received a letter. He decided, however, that the document, as presented, was inadequate and that he would not release it to the Press. Only last week, at their specially convened executive meeting at Lord's to enquire into the events of the tour, did the TCCB discover the story of the missing word, the reason why their captain had acted in such a mysterious way.

Most depressing cricket I have ever played

The hard truth was that, whatever the extraordinary nature of the provocation, England had performed poorly and behaved reprehensibly. The seasoned touring players knew as much and the young ones silently suspected it.

They all came home richer than they had expected to be, yet the comments of one senior player probably reflected the views of many: "It was the most depressing cricket I have ever played. If you don't enjoy it, this is not the sort of game you can continue to play. We all play for money, and our professionalism does put a different slant on the troubles we have had. People will interpret some of our words and actions as sour grapes, but we did all feel the dice were loaded against us and at the end of the day most of us would rather not play under such conditions. The only good thing to come out of the whole affair is that it is now in the open. People know what happens in Pakistan. They can judge for themselves who is to blame."

Suspensions of hush money bonus

Most of England's players believed that Raman Subba Row, the Test and County Cricket Board chairman, and Alan Smith, the board's chief executive, had returned home without achieving anything during their six-day stay. Relations between them all had improved, the board officials having spent a lot of time in the team's dressing room, but there was a general sense of perplexity at the results of their visit.

This continued after their departure but, on the rest day in Karachi, the players were told that one decision, at least, had been taken in their favour. They were each to receive a £1,000 bonus at the end of the tour, by order of the TCCB chairman. A cheer went up in the team room as Peter Lush made the announcement.

Subba Row had taken the decision in the last hour of his stay in Pakistan. Almost certainly, he had been influenced by the belief that his efforts to extract an apology from Shakoor had failed. He had been genuinely distressed by the mental state of some of the players and he felt he was

acting as a good employer would in such circumstances. He did not refer the matter back to London for board consideration. It was an impromptu act, though one which he was later to regret, as his colleagues on the TCCB doubted his tact and wisdom. Much earlier, certain England players had done the same thing.

At a drinks party on the rest day of the game, discussion centred on the bonus. The initial euphoria at an unsolicited handout had vanished. Graham Gooch was one who was adamant the

gift should be refused because, timed as it was, it appeared too much like hush money. His mood spread. Soon, a delegation approached Lush to express the players' fears. Lush could only repeat that the money had been offered in good faith but that the payment was to remain confidential. Nothing was decided, which was tacitly an acceptance of the offer. Naturally, within days, the news escaped into print.

Most players were a shade embarrassed, some said they felt humiliated.

FISHING

Salmon reports make encouraging news

By Conrad Voss Bark

Quite a few of the far northern rivers of the Scottish Highlands opened for salmon fishing this week, including the Helmsdale, Haildale, Naver, Borge and Thurso. More or less every other Scottish river, rather sensibly, one would think, waits until at least the middle of February before opening freezing waters to fly or bait.

It makes one shudder to think of it. The late John Ashley Cooper gave the best advice on how to avoid ice forming in the rod rings. Preferably use a floating line, on the first cast put out as full a length as you can manage, at least 25 yards, and then to recast, lift the full length of line off the water and cast again. This way no water reaches the rod rings or the hands. For the time being.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

7.30 unless stated
FOOTBALL
CENTRAL LEAGUE (7.30) First division: Everton v Sheffield Wednesday; Manchester City v Blackpool (8.45). Second division: Doncaster v Wigan; Notts County v York.
SUNDAY SENIOR CUP: First round replay: Leatherhead v Carshalton Athletic.

OTHER SPORT
BOWLS: Tournament: CIS International mixed pairs event (ends Sat at North Walsham). Scottish championship starts: men's and ladies (at Gouthrie), County

CYCLING

Junior has the world at his feet

By Peter Bryan

At the age of 17, Ian Wright has clearly indicated the range of his ability in competition with five national titles, spread well across the track, road and cyclo-cross disciplines.

Although he is regarded as having the potential required for Olympic selection in 1992, the Lincoln rider has set his priorities. He has three years remaining of a graphic arts diploma course and until he has achieved that, everything else must take a back seat.

His successful defence at the weekend of his national junior cyclo-cross title confirmed his selection for the world championship at Hagendorf, Switzerland, on January 31. Almost anticipating that he would make the squad, Wright has already taken the precaution looking over the championship circuit.

The course, he said, is a testing one, with a succession of ups and downs.

The cyclo-cross season extends through to the end of February and, after that, Wright will start preparing for selection in July's world junior road race championship at Odense, Denmark.

GOLF

Faldo to play it straight

From John Ballantine
La Costa, California

What a joyful bonus would be added to the Ryder Cup victory bonuses in Ohio last September if one of the three Britons who compete here in the inaugural event of 1988, the tournament of champions, Nick Faldo, Sandy Lyle or Ken Brown, could become the first foreigner to win since Gary Player triumphed in 1978.

The odds are 33 to 5 against David Frost, of Cape Town, and TC Chen, of Taiwan being the other two aliens present in the tournament which starts today.

The formidable Americans, who all won at least one tournament last year, include the revitalised Tom Watson, who won here in 1979, 1980, and 1984 and who may be back on what the natives call "a roll".

Twelve leading seniors, among them Chi Chi Rodriguez, Bruce Crampton and Player, also play for a £50,000 purse. The regular tour players compete for £250,000 with a £45,000



Faldo: charming first prize and even the last man receiving £2,500.

"Hi, Nick, gonna win?" a Texas amateur called to Faldo as the Open champion walked last off the course in the dusk last night, still jet-lagged after his 16-hour journey from Down Under but determined to get into harness immediately.

"Well I'm here," grinned Faldo encouragingly, "so we'll just have to see." The tall Englishman, who strikes one as being altogether less edgy and more self-possessed and charming since his Muirfield win in July, fluted sweetly after his

Texas friend: "Bye-bye and toodle-loo."

After his first look at the 7,022 yard, par 72 course, surrounded by the low bungalow-topped hills of southern California, Faldo compared it to the Riviera Club in Los Angeles. Fairly tight with small, difficult greens and requiring extremely accurate iron shots. Most winners here have been very straight hitters.

Brown also had his first glance at this intriguing links with its cross creeks and lakes meandering between scrub and small trees and, like his fellow Scot, Lyle, he cannot wait to get into action.

"I've been practising more than usual this winter in a net at my home in Harpenden, working on slightly lengthening my backswing by getting the club into a horizontal position," said Brown, who won his first American title, the Southern Open by seven strokes in Columbus, Georgia, in the week following the Cup matches in the autumn.

Like Faldo, the Scot is looking forward tremendously to playing in the Masters in April.

"But first things first," this eminently pragmatic player said. "There's no reason why all three of us shouldn't do really well here."

SQUASH RACKETS

Lower division makes its mark higher up

By Colin McQuillan

The new second division of the American Express Premier League is beginning to influence matters at the top of the national competition even before the first promotions occur at the end of the season.

InterCity Cannons edged into first division leadership this week, one point ahead of James Capel Ardleigh, whom they visit in Essex next Tuesday. Their lead would have been at least one point stronger but for Yawar Abbas, a Midlands student, who plays second division national squash for Trillick Thornbridge. This week he moved up to play fifth string for Manchester Northern against Cannons and beat David Pearson 3-9, 5-9, 9-6, 9-6, 9-1.

Cannons were looking for a clean sweep at home to give them a cushion against Ardleigh but Abbas and Mark Maclean, of Scotland, reduced the margin to 3-2 with their wins over Pearson and the England No. 1, Neil Harvey. Ardleigh have a match in hand over Cannons but may play next week without their national champion, Del Harris, who is scheduled to appear in the British Open under-23 quarter-finals on Tuesday evening.

Thornbridge, a flourishing

Bradford club, are seven points clear in the northern region of the second division and seem certain to take that promotion spot at the end of the season. Like promotion candidates from the southern region are Mayflower Lambs, the London club said to be already negotiating for both Jansher and Jahangir Khan, the top two players in the world, as alternating first strings next season.

Thornbridge have preferred to mix local players with a group of young professionals, most of whom are also on the books of first division clubs as lower order reserves.

Colin Thornbridge man, Colin Keim, of Scotland, beat David Campton at second string against Pontefract Whitehale on Monday and then kept Village Leisure in the first division hunt on Tuesday by beating Mike Robinson, of Leicester.

RESULTS: InterCity Cannons 3, Jim Hall Sports Northern 2; Castlemeads Weston 4, Fox Street Herts 1; Village Leisure 3, Central Motors Leicester 2.

FIRST DIVISION

Club	P	W	L	T	pts
Cannons	7	7	0	0	14
Ardleigh	7	6	1	0	12
Village Leisure	7	5	2	0	10
Northern	7	4	3	0	8
Lakewood	7	3	4	0	6
Weston	7	2	5	0	4
Herts SC	7	1	6	0	2
Dunstable	7	0	7	0	0

